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THE

# NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant."

No. 1.

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## ADDRESS TO THE READERS.

BURKE, in one of his celebrated letters, "On the proposals for peace with the regicide Directory of France," observes of the allies that they had adopted "a plan of war against the success of which there was something little short of mathematical demonstration. They refused to take any step which might strike at the heart of affairs. They seemed unwilling to wound the enemy in any vital part. They always kept on the circumference; and the wider and remoter the circle was, the more eagerly they chose it as the sphere of action in this centrifugal war."

No words could describe with nicer accuracy the political movements of English dissenters. The fitful and convulsive energy they have at times displayed has been, almost without exception, on the outermost region of the ground for which they have contended. As a body they have uniformly acted as though they were ashamed of their great leading principle, and secretly distrustful of its efficacy; and they have wasted their efforts in a series of petty skirmishes, which have served only to win for them more comfortable quarters, without bringing them a whit nearer to the attainment of their ultimate object.

Their war has been one of detail, not of principle. They have fought for themselves rather than for truth.

Their present humiliating position is only the natural consequence of this primary error. One failure broke their spirits. They had none of the noble daring, the indomitable will, the lofty enthusiasm, which earnest attachment to a great principle invariably calls forth. They became first despondent, then apathetic. The ends they sought appeared too unimportant to justify the cost which must be paid for securing them.

By its results, if by nothing else, this system of warfare is, after fair trial, condemned. Diplomacy has had its day, and failed as miserably as it deserved. For their principles, dissenters have hitherto gained nothing—for themselves, they have only reaped contempt.

The time is now come, either to give up the cause of religious liberty in despair, or to strike a blow "at the heart of affairs"—to abandon the ground of expediency, and resolutely to take up that of principle. Before dissenters can hope to make way they must make the basis of their operations national rather than sectarian—must aim not so much to right themselves as to right Christianity. The union of church and state is the real evil against which their efforts must be directed. In labouring to sever this unseemly connexion they will serve the nation, they will aid religion, and they will free themselves.

This, then, will constitute the primary object of the *Nonconformist*. To shew that a national establishment of religion is essentially vicious in its constitution, philosophically, politically, and religiously,—to bring under public notice the innumerable evils of which it is the parent—to arouse men, and more especially those who avowedly and on religious grounds repudiate it, from the fatal apathy with which they regard its continuance and extension—to ply them with every motive which ought to prevail upon them to come forward, and combine and act for an equitable and peaceable severance of church and state; this is the great design of the projectors of this paper. They have no other object, pecuniary or party, to serve.

The need of an organ honestly and earnestly devoted to this end—an organ to represent principles, not a class—set up to speak what is true, albeit not popular, has long been felt. The *Nonconformist* is established to supply the deficiency.

It will readily be seen how the pursuit of this great object will necessarily bring the whole range of politics, domestic and foreign, under our review. The establishment has become so interwoven with all our civil institutions as to render the abolition of the one impossible without some further modifications of the other. The mechanism of our present legislature, the principles upon which it is constructed, the manner in which it works, and the good or bad results of its actions will therefore, as occasion prompts, become subjects for dispassionate comment. We shall indicate as concisely as we are able the general principles by which we shall be guided in this branch of our undertaking.

We hesitate not to avow most explicitly that the *Nonconformist* professes to base its opinions upon New Testament principles. Deprecating the subjection of religion to the meddling of civil polity, it holds that civil polity should be in conso-

nance with the maxims of religion. Christianity, it is true, prescribes no forms of government; but it furnishes us with leading principles, by the application of which we may test with unerring certainty, the truth or falsehood, the wisdom or folly, of political systems and movements. Justice to all, freedom for all, peace among all—peremptory injunctions of Christianity, cannot safely be trampled upon by the state. But, trampled upon we believe they will and must be, until the boundaries within which legislation should be confined are known and respected. At present we have government in excess. Every limb of the nation is pinioned by acts of parliament. Nothing is left to spontaneous growth. Restriction meets us everywhere—regulates our markets, impedes our commerce, cripples our industry, paralyses our religion. These, in our opinion, are the natural fruits produced by mistaking the proper objects of government. The utmost liberty, compatible with social order, we take to be the inalienable right of all men. We ask nothing more from the state than *protection*, extending to the life and liberty, the peace and property of the governed; and to secure this to all classes of subjects, we advocate a fair and full representation of all.

With these views and principles the *Nonconformist* is now ushered into the world, "that it may bear its part in producing those grand results for which the times are manifestly ripening, and the omen of which is already throwing over every free and benevolent mind a glow of satisfaction and of hope."

## ECCLIESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

### THE "GRIEVANCE" ERROR.

How does it happen that in looking over the records of our legislature, we find every reference now made to dissenters by men of all parties, marked by a tone so different from that which formerly prevailed? Whence comes the seemingly mysterious change that has passed upon them since the great campaigns which terminated in the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and the emancipation of our Roman catholic fellow-country men? Ten years since their voice commanded respectful attention; their movements were bold, vigorous, and successful. Now, although they have gained in numbers, are possessed of equal wealth, and superior intelligence, they are despised, and, what is worse, despised with impunity.

A Registration Act and a Marriage Bill have been ceded to them, it is true, by a reformed parliament. But setting these aside, to what quarter can they look for self-gratulation. The continuation of church rates, ecclesiastical imprisonments, workhouse chaplains, colonial bishoprics, and demands for church extension, prove that they are no longer formidable. Their own movements are not what they once were, well planned and skillfully conducted enterprises. They are more like insurrections,—fitful, sudden, partial in extent, easily suppressed, productive of no beneficial result. Dissenters are without union; they have lost heart, the *prestige* of their power is gone.

"When, however, they are taunted by whigs, Tories, and radicals, with their mutual disagreements, and sectarian jealousies, whilst there may be some truth in the reproach, it does nothing to lay open the true cause of their present weakness. Differences of opinion, strong, and even bigotted attachment to theological creeds are not things of yesterday's growth. They always have existed, always will exist. With men not wholly indifferent to truth, there is a natural and invariable tendency, in the absence of higher and more commanding motives, to fall apart into distinct bodies, and become sectarian, both in spirit and in aim.

Nor is this law of our nature to be torn up and flung aside by the railings of politicians. To fuse minds of different original construction, of different habits and modes of thought, of different tastes and affections, into unity of purpose, requires the presence and energy of some broad intelligible principle, in which all can unite, the realization of which all can regard as worthy of a struggle, and in the working out of which all will be content to merge their minor differences, and deliberate, and speak, and act, as one man.

The secret of the present humiliating position of dissenters is, that their proceedings have, of late, been based on no intelligible principle at all. They put forward the redress of "practical grievances" as their bond of union. We have no disposition to quarrel

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with the gentlemen who decided upon this policy, to impugn their motives or to depreciate their judgment. We know how easy it is, after the event, to point out the certain cause of failure. Their mistake was, perhaps, natural, but it was fatal. From this moment energy began to decline, zeal to grow cold, and disunion to appear. The timidity, the selfishness, the petty character of the proposed enterprise, quickly produced their baneful results. One unsuccessful contest decided the matter. Then came languor, indifference, mutual recriminations and disastrous defeat. They are now like a disbanded army. The materials of strength exist among them in abundance, but without the discipline which once combined them and rendered them available against the foes of religious freedom. Why should dissenters conceal from themselves what is known to all the world? They are no longer respected—they are feared by none.

In tracing their present weakness to its right source, we indicate the only efficient remedy. They must begin again the struggle with intolerance. Let them begin wisely. Ultimate success will require union, patience, persevering energy, and considerable self-sacrifice. Their aim must therefore be a worthy one. It must involve a noble principle. It must be honest, direct, and final. THE ENTIRE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE is really their object. It becomes dissenters fairly to avow it, soberly to set about it, and in all earnestness to gird and discipline themselves for a final grapple with ecclesiastical tyranny.

#### THE PIOUS "STANDARD."

THE organs of the clergy and the church, have a method peculiar to themselves of promoting the cause of the Christian religion. Of this the *Standard* of Friday last furnishes an edifying example. As the editorial matter is brief, we will insert it entire.

"It is not, as the readers of the *Standard* are aware, our practice to indulge in political controversy on either of the two great religious festivals of the year. In compliance with the custom which we have thus prescribed for ourselves as public journalists, we abstain from any editorial remarks on this sacred anniversary calculated to withdraw the minds of our readers from the great event it commemorates."

Now, if there is any meaning in these pretensions, if this is not the boldest hypocrisy, the reader will expect the *Standard* of Friday to be made up of a series of homilies, collects, and theological disquisitions. Anything which would withdraw the attention of the reader from the events above alluded to, must, of course, be rigidly excluded, for common consistency's and decency's sake. The pious reader will relish the devotional tendency of the following articles, of which we can only give the heads, but to which the maxim may be antithetically applied, "*ex pede Herculem*." Imprimis, the leading articles, more or less fully, of the *Morning Herald*, the *Times*, and the *Globe*;—item, a column or two of the most interesting news from China, India, and Egypt;—item, half a dozen columns of police and assize intelligence, and a full report of all the principal markets in the country, together with some interesting intelligence respecting the discovery of three ounces and a half of stone in the middle of an American pine;—Long-beard, the Lord of London;—the budget of the Bubble family;—sets of plated corner dishes and newly-invented spectacles. Two or three items, however, have a nearer relation, if not to religion, at least to the established church, a distinction which the *Standard* may be excused for overlooking. For example, two instances of the performance of the blessed sacrament of marriage; a steeple-chase extraordinary at Banbury, between Mr. Root's *Protestant*, Mr. Powell's *Perfection*, and Mr. Dillon's *Goliath*; and the following advertisement, which shall close our analysis; "Public Sales—CHURCH PREFERMENT IN NORFOLK—TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT—The next presentation to a valuable living, with prospect of early possession."

What expectations may we not entertain for the spread of religion, when we find the sheets of our ordinary newspapers thus entirely devoted to it. Surely the day must be approaching when, agreeably to the intimations of prophecy, the horses themselves shall bear testimony to the truth!

#### MR. BAINES'S IMPRISONMENT.

FIVE months have now elapsed—cold, dreary, desolate months—since this gentleman was torn from his family, and consigned to a common gaol, for disobedience to ecclesiastical authority. Had he not been sustained by high and sacred principle, his fortitude must, ere this, have given way; for he has had little else to sustain him. Apathy, more chilling than the bleak winter which has rolled over him; cavils about the petty details of his case; insinuations of the meanest kind as to his motives; sneers at his scrupulous conscience; positive misstatements of facts; and downright condemnation;—such is the rich harvest that blesses the man who suffers in the present day for dissenting principles.

He had no right to expect this. There is no mystery about his case which is not thrown around it by men who dislike, either the principle he asserts, or the earnestness with which he persists in adhering to it. Whether he might or might not have avoided imprisonment,—whether his punishment be for refusing to appear before an ecclesiastical court, or for disobedience to its final decree,—are questions about which, one might imagine, dissenters would be indifferent. The broad, palpable fact stares them in the face, that Mr. Baines suffers for carrying out the fundamental principle of dissent, namely, that in religion, any authority exercised by man is a usurpation of a divine prerogative, and ought to be resisted.

Mr. Baines, in common with the great body of dissenters, professes to believe that the state trespasses beyond its legitimate

province, and trenches upon most sacred rights, in presuming to legislate in religious matters. It matters not to him what, in this sphere, the state commands—whether to support any specified form of worship by his presence at church, or by his property for its maintenance. He objects to the authority, as such. He believes that, of right, it belongs not to man. He declines to recognise it, wielded in whatever way; and he is now in prison solely on this account. He suffers because he is a *practical* dissenter.

A good deal of inquiry and discussion, quite unnecessary in our view, has gone on as to how this gentleman got into prison. Many people talk of the case as though he had put himself there. A very likely business! Conscientiously determined not to pay church-rates, why did he not suffer distraint? Why oust the jurisdiction of the magistrates? He knew the risk, and he is now only overtaken by the severity which he had every reason to expect. We are not going to state why. Mr. Baines may have been induced to incur the risk by reasons far more generous than some dissenters give him credit for. Meanwhile we may remark, that Mr. Baines is where he is because he refused to obey the archbishop of Canterbury's command to pay his rate with costs. The man who has fallen among thieves and is wounded severely is thus interrogated:—"But did they not give you an alternative? Did they not say, 'Your money or your life?' You knew the risk; you have got what you might expect! Virtually you told the robbers to shoot you. We cannot help you." Poor man! His oppressors more readily find apologists than he.

The case was discussed, on Mr. Easthope's motion, in the house of Commons; and a majority of five decided, that to imprison Mr. Baines for not obeying the archbishop was *not* to punish him for acting in accordance with what he believed to be a religious duty—was not a violation of religious liberty. Mr. Hawes made a speech which ought to have prevented the House from coming to this decision. He was zealous; spoke warmly because he felt warmly. So earnest was he, that he lost his usual presence of mind, and in sheer enthusiasm left the house without voting. His speech was in favour of Mr. Baines; his vote, or rather no-vote, was in favour of Lord John Russell.

As pretence, in proportion as it assumes the appearance of earnestness, becomes proportionably pitiful, we are inclined to prefer the non-voting *thinkers* to the non-voting *speakers*. Certain constituencies, at least a dozen, would, upon due inquiry made, be delighted to find that their representatives coincided in opinion with Mr. Easthope; that they were, on that evening, within the purlieus of the house; that they would have carried the resolution had they voted; but that, being somewhat interested, at the moment of division, in discussing wine at the Reform Club, they generously kept their opinions to themselves, to be displayed on the hustings—a much more favourable theatre. "A *fig* for conscience!" would be a most appropriate phrase in the mouths of these *dessert*-loving representatives.

Mr. William Baines remains a prisoner in the county gaol at Leicester, where he has been confined upwards of TWENTY-ONE WEEKS, for declining to pay at the bidding of the archbishop of Canterbury's court, the sum of £2 6s. church rates, and £125 3s. costs. We make this announcement in our first number, and, following the example of one or two provincial journals, shall repeat it week by week until the prisoner's release.

A spirited meeting was held at Market Harborough, on Wednesday evening, March 31st, to consider the propriety of petitioning parliament for the liberation of Mr. Baines, the extinction of ecclesiastical courts, the abolition of church rates, and the *Separation of Church and State*. The Revs. J. Webb, of Arnesby (who possibly may be imprisoned himself, before long), Robinson of Kettering, Bennett of Northampton, and J. P. Mursell of Leicester, severally addressed the meeting, the Rev. H. Toller presiding. This is the most effectual plan of securing, not only the diffusion of a knowledge of voluntary principles, but also the respectful attention of our legislative bodies. Were our market towns generally to take up the matter in this spirit, a very different tone would be adopted by government in reference to dissenters.

An action brought by a person named Taylor against Mr. Weston, a Surrey magistrate, to recover compensation for illegal trespass, was tried at the Kingston assizes, on Friday, April 2. The plaintiff had been summoned for non-payment of church rates, had objected to the validity of the rate, and had warned the defendant not to give judgment in his case. In this he failed, and by order of the magistrate, Mr. Weston, his goods were distrained upon, and a coal-scuttle taken. Mr. Baron Parke, after alluding to the act of parliament, observed that in his opinion the jury had but one question to decide, viz., whether at the time the plaintiff attended before the magistrates, he had a real and *bona fide* intention to dispute the validity of the rate. In his opinion, the notice he had given the magistrates was not sufficient, and he thought the law required that a man should give them some reason to satisfy them of his intention. Because a man merely chose to say, "I dispute the rate," were the churchwardens to be baffled, and compelled to resort to an ecclesiastical court? He thought not. If it were so, the act of parliament in question would be almost a dead letter.

The jury immediately returned a verdict for the defendant.

The dexterity with which our judges twist the law in favour of the establishment is a curious feature of the times. The integrity of the bench has been a theme of admiration upon which all parties could fondly dwell. It seems from several instances which have lately occurred, to be laid aside in all ecclesiastical questions. Whatever the church touches, by some fatality, it corrupts. We have given in another column an article on the case from the *Morning Chronicle*.





On Thursday last, a vestry meeting was held in the parish church, Chesterfield, for the purpose of authorising "the churchwardens of the said parish to apply to the Consistory Court of the bishop of Lichfield, for a faculty or decree to re-pew and re-seat the parish church of Chesterfield aforesaid, according to certain plans to be produced by the said churchwardens at the said vestry meeting, subject to such alterations and modifications as the said court may direct. And for the inhabitants aforesaid to nominate and select six commissioners, whom the said court may authorize and empower to allot and award pews and sittings in the said church, under and by virtue of the said faculty or decree, or otherwise to carry the said faculty or decree into effect, in such manner as the said court shall direct." A large and respectable class of parishioners, who dissent from the proposed alterations in the parish church, purposely absented themselves, declining to become parties to any proceedings until the citation be issued, when their claims will be supported by counsel.—We earnestly advise the Chesterfield dissenters to look well before they leap. They are going to venture into a place of darkness—inconsistently too with their own principles—from whence there is no return without being both wronged and fleeced.

A correspondent of the *Cambridge Independent Press* reports a vestry meeting held in the parish of Littleport on the 25th ult., at which a church-rate of 2d. in the pound was unanimously agreed to. He then very amiably remarks, "Parishes constantly contesting church-rates would do well to follow this example, thereby promoting peace and good-will among neighbours, instead of keeping alive those angry feelings which such contests give rise to."—We suspect this is written by a coercionist to catch very flat dissenters—if not, it is most probably the handywork of one whose vote either for or against a church-rate would probably offend some customers. It is wonderful how much men praise that charity which enables them to profess principles without being inconvenienced by them. The "good-will" that blinks great principles usually turns out, when put into the crucible, a mere *caput mortuum* of timid worldliness.

A rate of one penny in the pound was recently granted to the churchwardens of the parish of Kirkburton. At the meeting which was held for the purpose of laying the rate, the church party had all their own way. Their estimate was very moderate, amounting to some little above 20l., and they were so elated by having no opposition to it, that they very modestly levied a rate of one penny in the pound, which, if collected throughout all the townships in the parish, would raise about eight times the amount of their estimate! It is understood that they are trying to enforce the rate in those townships in the parish which comprise part of the chapelry of Holmfirth, one of which townships, at one penny in the pound on the poor-rate valuation, would raise twice the amount of the estimate. Will they?—*Leeds Mercury*.

The *Bradford Observer* states that the churchwardens at the parish church and at Christ Church, have exhibited a notice that they are about to adopt other, and what the friends of church-rates consider, final and decisive measures for laying a rate. The paper thus exhibited purports to be a notice of action, in which Mr. E. J. Mitchell, of this town, plaintiff, and Mr. B. B. Popplewell and Mr. G. Pollard, churchwardens, are defendants. The ground of action is stated to be to compel the defendants to show cause why they have, year after year, neglected the repair and reparation of the parish church, Bradford. It further sets forth that the answer put in by the defendants shows that the churchwardens have, year after year, asked for a rate at the hands of the rate-payers in vestry duly and legally convened and assembled, and that the rate-payers have in each and every instance refused to grant them a rate; they were therefore without funds for the necessary repair and reparation of the church. On these grounds issue is joined. The defendants are then cited to be and appear in their proper persons in the Consistory Court of York, on the 27th day of April inst., between the hours of eight and twelve in the forenoon; themselves especially, and the rate-payers individually and generally, are thereby cited to appear in the said court to be held in the Cathedral of York, in order to show cause why a monition should not be issued commanding the churchwardens forthwith to give notice to the rate-payers of the parish, that a vestry meeting will be held on a certain day in the vestry of the parish church, for the purpose of laying a rate for the repair and reparation of the parish church. The rate-payers are also required to assemble at such vestry, and grant the churchwardens a rate for such purpose, lest they be guilty of contumacy. With respect to the "Notice" exhibited at the parish church, it might as well have been suspended from the highest pinnacle of the steeple as placed at the extreme end of the church porch, with the entrance gates locked—probably the law does not require it to be read—the force of exhibition may be sufficient. We are further informed that the items submitted to the last meeting will, in an amended form, be laid—let the rate-payers say aye or nay—and the rate so laid will be peremptorily enforced. Of course nothing can be done by the opponents of a rate until the monition has issued and the meeting is called. When the meeting is called, the rate-payers will no doubt assemble as they have done in times past, and respectfully decline to tax themselves for the benefit of a small but wealthy part of their number. Whether the ecclesiastical court has power to compel the rate-payers to lay a rate, is a problem that remains to be solved.

Several persons were summoned before the magistrates at the petty sessions last Saturday, to show cause why they refused to pay church rates in the township of New Brentford. Mr. David Waters, a tradesman of the town objected to the validity of his summons, in which the name of *Daniel* was inserted instead of *David*, and which was dated 1847 instead of 1841. The magistrates decided that Mr. Waters had rendered the first objection useless by his appearance, and that the second objection, being only the slip of a pen, was not worth notice. Mr. Waters then objected to pay the rate, firstly, because property to the amount of £400 per annum had not been assessed to the church rate, and, secondly, because the churchwardens's books exhibited several items of illegal expenditure; amongst other things, the sum of six guineas was charged for a dinner and other expenses of the churchwardens at some annual visitation, or other gala day, connected with the church. The magistrates enquired whether Mr. Waters was prepared to carry his

objection into the ecclesiastical court. Mr. Waters replied that he considered the rate illegal, and did not intend to pay it, but that it was not his business to move in the ecclesiastical court, especially as he also objected to church rates from principle. The magistrates then ordered a distress warrant to be issued against Mr. Waters for the amount of the rate and costs. Mr. John Cunningham was called upon but did not appear, and a distress warrant was issued against him. Several poor people, who with tears in their eyes, declared their inability to pay the rate, were then called upon to show cause for their refusal. With great kindness their landlord, Mr. Crighton, came forward, and expressed his intention of paying the rates for them if the churchwarden could swear that he had made application for the amount previously to the issuing of the summonses; several of the parties summoned, declared they had never been asked for the rate, but the churchwarden swore to the application in each case; when cross-examined by Mr. Crighton, as to whether he applied for the exact amount of the rate, he declined to offer any further evidence upon oath. Mr. Crighton was then allowed to pay the rates for the poor people without costs. Those who have upon principle, refused to pay the rate, are determined to let the law take its course; we expect, therefore, every day, to hear of the first sale for church-rates in this neighbourhood; and, as this is for the rate of last year, and as another has been due for some time, it is expected that numbers will follow the example of Messrs. Waters and Cunningham, and suffer the spoiling of their goods, rather than the violation of their consciences.

The following letter, addressed to the *Morning Chronicle*, is a fair sample of ecclesiastical morality in pecuniary matters, and gives us a fine clue to the origin of the tax, which has from time immemorial been a tax upon property, sacred as rent and tithes. "Get money—honestly if you can, but get it!"—

"SIR,—It is hard enough for dissenters to have to pay such charges to the church as they are liable to by the law of the land, but surely they ought not to be called upon to pay any illegal charges connected with the establishment. In looking over the accounts of the above parish, and which are to be laid before the vestry on Easter Tuesday, I find that the churchwardens have, during the past year, erected fonts in three subscription-built churches, and charged the expense to the ratepayers, who are no more liable to pay it than they are to pay the expenses of the unitarian or catholic chapel. The three churches alluded to are, All Saints, St. Philip, and St. Stephen; all of them, so far as ratepayers are concerned, mere private edifices, and in no way connected with the parish. A strong muster on Easter Tuesday will frustrate the attempt at illegal taxation, and prevent such a fraud being again attempted.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
SUL' MARGINE D'UN RIO."

"Islington, April 5.

On Tuesday evening the 30th ult. a meeting was called by placard at the Assembly Rooms for 'the formation of a Bath Protestant Operative Association,' and in bills subsequently issued, it was stated that "the Rev. Hugh Stowell, of Manchester, would address the meeting." The attendance of the working classes having been specially requested, they were present in considerable, and, perhaps, strictly speaking, inconvenient numbers. Tickets signed by the secretary laid all persons using them under an obligation to be "amenable to the chair." At the hour fixed for the commencement of business a crowded audience filled the room to the number of nearly 2000 persons waited twenty minutes for Mr. Stowell and the clergy to proceed, and then amidst much impatience, upon the motion of a Mr. Philp, appointed a Mr. Bolwell to the chair. The reverend Protestant agitators declared they would not acquiesce in the will of the meeting, having already appointed the chairman by their own authority. The natural consequence was a scene of most ludicrous confusion, a few clergymen attempting to awe into submission a large assembly of sturdy operatives, and they in their turn, insisting upon having proper deference paid to their chairman. After some pithy remarks by Mr. R. K. Phelps, the following resolution was moved, seconded, put to the meeting, and carried by a vast majority:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, seeing the vast revenues already applied to church purposes, and contemplating the distressed condition of the people; taking into account also, the opposition given by the church to every measure of political reform calculated to benefit the country and extend civil and religious liberty, it is inexpedient to form a Bath Protestant Operative Association. But this meeting pledges itself to use every effort to effect such political, social, and religious reforms, as shall place the church upon a more just basis than at present, and bring complete justice and liberty to the whole people." (tremendous cheering.)

A curious correspondence has lately passed between the clergy and the dissenting ministers at Leeds, conducted on the part of the former by Dr. Hook, and on that of the latter by the Rev. R. W. Hamilton, in reference to a continuance of co-operation between them, in preaching to the poor at the workhouse. The clergy of Leeds by a majority of 12 to 4 can take no step 'which would involve a recognition of any ministers out of the church.' This resolution with a little bit of sarcasm in the form of a note, from Dr. Hook, may serve to convince Mr. Hamilton and his brethren at Leeds that the occasional use of portions of the church liturgy, and general quiescence in regard to Dissenting questions, do nothing to conciliate high churchmen. The reading of a *Te Deum* at the opening of a dissenting meeting-house will not satisfy arrogant ecclesiastics.

There is a report in Edinburgh that the Earl of Stair will be her majesty's high commissioner to the ensuing general assembly.

PUSEYITES IN REQUEST.—We observed the other day, in a morning paper, the following advertisement. "Wanted, in a small family, about four miles from town, a good plain cook of the established church." A Puseyite must we think be meant. At all events, we recommend an application to Oxford, where "articles" can be dished up to suit the taste of any palate.

Mr. Johnathan Brundrett, of the Temple, presented a donation of £2,000 to London university college and hospital, to be equally divided between the two institutions.



with the gentlemen who decided upon this policy, to impugn their motives or to depreciate their judgment. We know how easy it is, after the event, to point out the certain cause of failure. Their mistake was, perhaps, natural, but it was fatal. From this moment energy began to decline, zeal to grow cold, and disunion to appear. The timidity, the selfishness, the petty character of the proposed enterprise, quickly produced their baneful results. One unsuccessful contest decided the matter. Then came languor, indifference, mutual recriminations and disastrous defeat. They are now like a disbanded army. The materials of strength exist among them in abundance, but without the discipline which once combined them and rendered them available against the foes of religious freedom. Why should dissenters conceal from themselves what is known to all the world? They are no longer respected—they are feared by none.

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THE organs of the clergy and the church, have a method peculiar to themselves of promoting the cause of the Christian religion. Of this the *Standard* of Friday last furnishes an edifying example. As the editorial matter is brief, we will insert it entire.

"It is not, as the readers of the *Standard* are aware, our practice to indulge in political controversy on either of the two great religious festivals of the year. In compliance with the custom which we have thus prescribed for ourselves as public journalists, we abstain from any editorial remarks on this sacred anniversary calculated to withdraw the minds of our readers from the great event it commemorates."

Now, if there is any meaning in these pretensions, if this is not the boldest hypocrisy, the reader will expect the *Standard* of Friday to be made up of a series of homilies, collects, and theological disquisitions. Anything which would withdraw the attention of the reader from the events above alluded to, must, of course, be rigidly excluded, for common consistency's and decency's sake. The pious reader will relish the devotional tendency of the following articles, of which we can only give the heads, but to which the maxim may be antithetically applied, "*ex pede Herculem*." Imprimis, the leading articles, more or less fully, of the *Morning Herald*, the *Times*, and the *Globe*;—item, a column or two of the most interesting news from China, India, and Egypt;—item, half a dozen columns of police and assize intelligence, and a full report of all the principal markets in the country, together with some interesting intelligence respecting the discovery of three ounces and a half of stone in the middle of an American pine;—Long-beard, the Lord of London;—the budget of the Bubble family;—sets of plated corner dishes and newly-invented spectacles. Two or three items, however, have a nearer relation, if not to religion, at least to the established church, a distinction which the *Standard* may be excused for overlooking. For example, two instances of the performance of the blessed sacrament of marriage; a steeple-chase extraordinary at Banbury, between Mr. Root's *Protestant*, Mr. Powell's *Perfection*, and Mr. Dillon's *Goliath*; and the following advertisement, which shall close our analysis; "Public Sales—CHURCH PREFERMENT IN NORFOLK—TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT—The next presentation to a valuable living, with prospect of early possession."

What expectations may we not entertain for the spread of religion, when we find the sheets of our ordinary newspapers thus entirely devoted to it. Surely the day must be approaching when, agreeably to the intimations of prophecy, the horses themselves shall bear testimony to the truth!

#### MR. BAINES'S IMPRISONMENT.

FIVE months have now elapsed—cold, dreary, desolate months—since this gentleman was torn from his family, and consigned to a common gaol, for disobedience to ecclesiastical authority. Had he not been sustained by high and sacred principle, his fortitude must, ere this, have given way; for he has had little else to sustain him. Apathy, more chilling than the bleak winter which has rolled over him; cavils about the petty details of his case; insinuations of the meanest kind as to his motives; sneers at his scrupulous conscience; positive misstatements of facts; and downright condemnation;—such is the rich harvest that blesses the man who suffers in the present day for dissenting principles.

He had no right to expect this. There is no mystery about his case which is not thrown around it by men who dislike, either the principle he asserts, or the earnestness with which he persists in adhering to it. Whether he might or might not have avoided imprisonment,—whether his punishment be for refusing to appear before an ecclesiastical court, or for disobedience to its final decree,—are questions about which, one might imagine, dissenters would be indifferent. The broad, palpable fact stares them in the face, that Mr. Baines suffers for carrying out the fundamental principle of dissent, namely, that in religion, any authority exercised by man is a usurpation of a divine prerogative, and ought to be resisted.

Mr. Baines, in common with the great body of dissenters, professes to believe that the state trespasses beyond its legitimate

province, and trenches upon most sacred rights, in presuming to legislate in religious matters. It matters not to him what, in this sphere, the state commands—whether to support any specified form of worship by his presence at church, or by his property for its maintenance. He objects to the authority, as such. He believes that, of right, it belongs not to man. He declines to recognise it, wielded in whatever way; and he is now in prison solely on this account. He suffers because he is a *practical* dissenter.

A good deal of inquiry and discussion, quite unnecessary in our view, has gone on as to how this gentleman got into prison. Many people talk of the case as though he had put himself there. A very likely business! Conscientiously determined not to pay church-rates, why did he not suffer distraint? Why oust the jurisdiction of the magistrates? He knew the risk, and he is now only overtaken by the severity which he had every reason to expect. We are not going to state why. Mr. Baines may have been induced to incur the risk by reasons far more generous than some dissenters give him credit for. Meanwhile we may remark, that Mr. Baines is where he is because he refused to obey the archbishop of Canterbury's command to pay his rate with costs. The man who has fallen among thieves and is wounded severely is thus interrogated:—"But did they not give you an alternative? Did they not say, 'Your money or your life?' You knew the risk; you have got what you might expect! Virtually you told the robbers to shoot you. We cannot help you." Poor man! His oppressors more readily find apologists than he.

The case was discussed, on Mr. Easthope's motion, in the house of Commons; and a majority of five decided, that to imprison Mr. Baines for not obeying the archbishop was *not* to punish him for acting in accordance with what he believed to be a religious duty—was not a violation of religious liberty. Mr. Hawes made a speech which ought to have prevented the House from coming to this decision. He was zealous; spoke warmly because he felt warmly. So earnest was he, that he lost his usual presence of mind, and in sheer enthusiasm left the house without voting. His speech was in favour of Mr. Baines; his vote, or rather no-vote, was in favour of Lord John Russell.

As pretence, in proportion as it assumes the appearance of earnestness, becomes proportionably pitiful, we are inclined to prefer the non-voting *thinkers* to the non-voting *speakers*. Certain constituencies, at least a dozen, would, upon due inquiry made, be delighted to find that their representatives coincided in opinion with Mr. Easthope; that they were, on that evening, within the purlieus of the house; that they would have carried the resolution had they voted; but that, being somewhat interested, at the moment of division, in discussing wine at the Reform Club, they generously kept their opinions to themselves, to be displayed on the hustings—a much more favourable theatre. "A fig for conscience!" would be a most appropriate phrase in the mouths of these *dessert-loving* representatives.

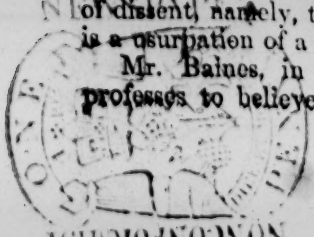
Mr. William Baines remains a prisoner in the county gaol at Leicester, where he has been confined upwards of TWENTY-ONE WEEKS, for declining to pay at the bidding of the archbishop of Canterbury's court, the sum of £2 6s. church rates, and £125 3s. costs. We make this announcement in our first number, and, following the example of one or two provincial journals, shall repeat it week by week until the prisoner's release.

A spirited meeting was held at Market Harborough, on Wednesday evening, March 31st, to consider the propriety of petitioning parliament for the liberation of Mr. Baines, the extinction of ecclesiastical courts, the abolition of church rates, and the *Separation of Church and State*. The Revs. J. Webb, of Arnesby (who possibly may be imprisoned himself, before long), Robinson of Kettering, Bennett of Northampton, and J. P. Mursell of Leicester, severally addressed the meeting, the Rev. H. Toller presiding. This is the most effectual plan of securing, not only the diffusion of a knowledge of voluntary principles, but also the respectful attention of our legislative bodies. Were our market towns generally to take up the matter in this spirit, a very different tone would be adopted by government in reference to dissenters.

An action brought by a person named Taylor against Mr. Weston, a Surrey magistrate, to recover compensation for illegal trespass, was tried at the Kingston assizes, on Friday, April 2. The plaintiff had been summoned for non-payment of church rates, had objected to the validity of the rate, and had warned the defendant not to give judgment in his case. In this he failed, and by order of the magistrate, Mr. Weston, his goods were distrained upon, and a coal-scuttle taken. Mr. Baron Parke, after alluding to the act of parliament, observed that in his opinion the jury had but one question to decide, viz., whether at the time the plaintiff attended before the magistrates, he had a real and *bona fide* intention to dispute the validity of the rate. In his opinion, the notice he had given the magistrates was not sufficient, and he thought the law required that a man should give them some reason to satisfy them of his intention. Because a man merely chose to say, "I dispute the rate," were the churchwardens to be baffled, and compelled to resort to an ecclesiastical court? He thought not. If it were so, the act of parliament in question would be almost a dead letter.

The jury immediately returned a verdict for the defendant.

The dexterity with which our judges twist the law in favour of the establishment is a curious feature of the times. The integrity of the bench has been a theme of admiration upon which all parties could fondly dwell. It seems from several instances which have lately occurred, to be laid aside in all ecclesiastical questions. Whatever the church touches, by some fatality, it corrupts. We have given in another column an article on the case from the *Morning Chronicle*.





On Thursday last, a vestry meeting was held in the parish church, Chesterfield, for the purpose of authorising "the churchwardens of the said parish to apply to the Consistory Court of the bishop of Lichfield, for a faculty or decree to re-pew and re-seat the parish church of Chesterfield aforesaid, according to certain plans to be produced by the said churchwardens at the said vestry meeting, subject to such alterations and modifications as the said court may direct. And for the inhabitants aforesaid to nominate and select six commissioners, whom the said court may authorize and empower to allot and award pews and sittings in the said church, under and by virtue of the said faculty or decree, or otherwise to carry the said faculty or decree into effect, in such manner as the said court shall direct." A large and respectable class of parishioners, who dissent from the proposed alterations in the parish church, purposely absented themselves, declining to become parties to any proceedings until the citation be issued, when their claims will be supported by counsel.—We earnestly advise the Chesterfield dissenters to look well before they leap. They are going to venture into a place of darkness—inconsistently too with their own principles—from whence there is no return without being both wronged and fleeced.

A correspondent of the *Cambridge Independent Press* reports a vestry meeting held in the parish of Littleport on the 25th ult., at which a church-rate of 2d. in the pound was unanimously agreed to. He then very amiably remarks, "Parishes constantly contesting church-rates would do well to follow this example, thereby promoting peace and good-will among neighbours, instead of keeping alive those angry feelings which such contests give rise to."—We suspect this is written by a coercionist to catch very flat dissenters—if not, it is most probably the handywork of one whose vote either for or against a church-rate would probably offend some customers. It is wonderful how much men praise that charity which enables them to profess principles without being inconvenienced by them. The "good-will" that blinks great principles usually turns out, when put into the crucible, a mere *caput mortuum* of timid worldliness.

A rate of one penny in the pound was recently granted to the churchwardens of the parish of Kirkburton. At the meeting which was held for the purpose of laying the rate, the church party had all their own way. Their estimate was very moderate, amounting to some little above 20*l.*, and they were so elated by having no opposition to it, that they very modestly levied a rate of one penny in the pound, which, if collected throughout all the townships in the parish, would raise about eight times the amount of their estimate! It is understood that they are trying to enforce the rate in those townships in the parish which comprise part of the chapelry of Holmfirth, one of which townships, at one penny in the pound on the poor-rate valuation, would raise twice the amount of the estimate. Will they?—*Leeds Mercury*.

The *Bradford Observer* states that the churchwardens at the parish church and at Christ Church, have exhibited a notice that they are about to adopt other, and what the friends of church-rates consider, final and decisive measures for laying a rate. The paper thus exhibited purports to be a notice of action, in which Mr. E. J. Mitchell, of this town, plaintiff, and Mr. B. B. Popplewell and Mr. G. Pollard, churchwardens, are defendants. The ground of action is stated to be to compel the defendants to show cause why they have, year after year, neglected the repair and reparation of the parish church, Bradford. It further sets forth that the answer put in by the defendants shows that the churchwardens have, year after year, asked for a rate at the hands of the rate-payers in vestry duly and legally convened and assembled, and that the rate-payers have in each and every instance refused to grant them a rate: they were therefore without funds for the necessary repair and reparation of the church. On these grounds issue is joined. The defendants are then cited to be and appear in their proper persons in the Consistory Court of York, on the 27th day of April inst., between the hours of eight and twelve in the forenoon; themselves especially, and the rate-payers individually and generally, are thereby cited to appear in the said court to be held in the Cathedral of York, in order to show cause why a monition should not be issued commanding the churchwardens forthwith to give notice to the rate-payers of the parish, that a vestry meeting will be held on a certain day in the vestry of the parish church, for the purpose of laying a rate for the repair and reparation of the parish church. The rate-payers are also required to assemble at such vestry, and grant the churchwardens a rate for such purpose, lest they be guilty of contumacy. With respect to the "Notice" exhibited at the parish church, it might as well have been suspended from the highest pinnacle of the steeple as placed at the extreme end of the church porch, with the entrance gates locked—probably the law does not require it to be read—the force of exhibition may be sufficient. We are further informed that the items submitted to the last meeting will, in an amended form, be laid—let the rate-payers say aye or nay—and the rate so laid will be peremptorily enforced. Of course nothing can be done by the opponents of a rate until the monition has issued and the meeting is called. When the meeting is called, the rate-payers will no doubt assemble as they have done in times past, and respectfully decline to tax themselves for the benefit of a small but wealthy part of their number. Whether the ecclesiastical court has power to compel the rate-payers to lay a rate, is a problem that remains to be solved.

Several persons were summoned before the magistrates, at the petty sessions last Saturday, to show cause why they refused to pay church rates in the township of New Brentford. Mr. David Waters, a tradesman of the town objected to the validity of his summons, in which the name of *Daniel* was inserted instead of *David*, and which was dated 1847 instead of 1841. The magistrates decided that Mr. Waters had rendered the first objection useless by his appearance, and that the second objection, being only the slip of a pen, was not worth notice. Mr. Waters then objected to pay the rate, firstly, because property to the amount of £400 per annum had not been assessed to the church rate, and, secondly, because the churchwardens' books exhibited several items of illegal expenditure; amongst other things, the sum of six guineas was charged for a dinner and other expenses of the churchwardens at some annual visitation, or other gala day, connected with the church. The magistrates enquired whether Mr. Waters was prepared to carry his

objection into the ecclesiastical court. Mr. Waters replied that he considered the rate illegal, and did not intend to pay it, but that it was not his business to move in the ecclesiastical court, especially as he also objected to church rates from principle. The magistrates then ordered a distress warrant to be issued against Mr. Waters for the amount of the rate and costs. Mr. John Cunningham was called upon but did not appear, and a distress warrant was issued against him. Several poor people, who with tears in their eyes, declared their inability to pay the rate, were then called upon to show cause for their refusal. With great kindness their landlord, Mr. Crighton, came forward, and expressed his intention of paying the rates for them if the churchwarden could swear that he had made application for the amount previously to the issuing of the summonses; several of the parties summoned, declared they had never been asked for the rate, but the churchwarden swore to the application in each case; when cross-examined by Mr. Crighton, as to whether he applied for the exact amount of the rate, he declined to offer any further evidence upon oath. Mr. Crighton was then allowed to pay the rates for the poor people without costs. Those who have upon principle, refused to pay the rate, are determined to let the law take its course; we expect, therefore, every day, to hear of the first sale for church-rates in this neighbourhood; and, as this is for the rate of last year, and as another has been due for some time, it is expected that numbers will follow the example of Messrs. Waters and Cunningham, and suffer the spoiling of their goods, rather than the violation of their consciences.

The following letter, addressed to the *Morning Chronicle*, is a fair sample of ecclesiastical morality in pecuniary matters, and gives us a fine clue to the origin of the tax, which has from time immemorial been a tax upon property, sacred as rent and tithes. "Get money—honestly if you can, but get it!"—

"SIR,—It is hard enough for dissenters to have to pay such charges to the church as they are liable to by the law of the land, but surely they ought not to be called upon to pay any illegal charges connected with the establishment. In looking over the accounts of the above parish, and which are to be laid before the vestry on Easter Tuesday, I find that the churchwardens have, during the past year, erected fonts in three subscription-built churches, and charged the expense to the ratepayers, who are no more liable to pay it than they are to pay the expenses of the unitarian or catholic chapel. The three churches alluded to are, All Saints, St. Philip, and St. Stephen; all of them, so far as ratepayers are concerned, mere private edifices, and in no way connected with the parish. A strong muster on Easter Tuesday will frustrate the attempt at illegal taxation, and prevent such a fraud being again attempted.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
SUL' MARGINE D'UN RIO."

"Islington, April 5.

On Tuesday evening the 30th ult. a meeting was called by placard at the Assembly Rooms for 'the formation of a Bath Protestant Operative Association,' and in bills subsequently issued, it was stated that "the Rev. Hugh Stowell, of Manchester, would address the meeting." The attendance of the working classes having been specially requested, they were present in considerable, and, perhaps, strictly speaking, inconvenient numbers. Tickets signed by the secretary laid all persons using them under an obligation to be "amenable to the chair." At the hour fixed for the commencement of business a crowded audience filled the room to the number of nearly 2000 persons waited twenty minutes for Mr. Stowell and the clergy to proceed, and then amidst much impatience, upon the motion of a Mr. Philp, appointed a Mr. Bolwell to the chair. The reverend Protestant agitators declared they would not acquiesce in the will of the meeting, having already appointed the chairman by their own authority. The natural consequence was a scene of most ludicrous confusion, a few clergymen attempting to awe into submission a large assembly of sturdy operatives, and they in their turn, insisting upon having proper deference paid to their chairman. After some pithy remarks by Mr. R. K. Phelps, the following resolution was moved, seconded, put to the meeting, and carried by a vast majority:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, seeing the vast revenues already applied to church purposes, and contemplating the distressed condition of the people; taking into account also, the opposition given by the church to every measure of political reform calculated to benefit the country and extend civil and religious liberty, it is inexpedient to form a Bath Protestant Operative Association. But this meeting pledges itself to use every effort to effect such political, social, and religious reforms, as shall place the church upon a more just basis than at present, and bring complete justice and liberty to the whole people." (tremendous cheering.)

A curious correspondence has lately passed between the clergy and the dissenting ministers at Leeds, conducted on the part of the former by Dr. Hook, and on that of the latter by the Rev. R. W. Hamilton, in reference to a continuance of co-operation between them, in preaching to the poor at the workhouse. The clergy of Leeds by a majority of 12 to 4 can take no step 'which would involve a recognition of any ministers out of the church.' This resolution with a little bit of sarcasm in the form of a note, from Dr. Hook, may serve to convince Mr. Hamilton and his brethren at Leeds that the occasional use of portions of the church liturgy, and general quiescence in regard to Dissenting questions, do nothing to conciliate high churchmen. The reading of a *Te Deum* at the opening of a dissenting meeting-house will not satisfy arrogant ecclesiastics.

There is a report in Edinburgh that the Earl of Stair will be her majesty's high commissioner to the ensuing general assembly.

PUSEYITES IN REQUEST.—We observed the other day, in a morning paper, the following advertisement. "Wanted, in a small family, about four miles from town, a good plain cook of the established church." A Puseyite must we think be meant. At all events, we recommend an application to Oxford, where "articles" can be dished up to suit the taste of any palate.

Mr. Johnathan Brundrett, of the Temple, presented a donation of £2,000 to London university college and hospital, to be equally divided between the two institutions.



## GENERAL POLITICS.

## FOREIGN.

CHINA.—The daily papers of April 8th announced, somewhat prematurely, the termination of our dispute with the Chinese. The facts appear to be as follow:

In consequence of the insincerity and tardiness displayed by the Imperial Commissioner, preparations were made on the morning of the 9th of January for attacking the outposts of the Bogue forts. About 700 Seapoys, 200 European soldiers, and 400 seamen were embarked under the command of Major Pratt, of her Majesty's 26th regiment, in the steamers *Enterprise*, *Nemesis*, and *Madagascar*, and landed in the vicinity of the fort of Chuenpee. At the same time her Majesty's ships *Calliope*, *Larne*, and *Hyacinth*, opened a cannonade on the lower battery of the fort, while the steamers *Nemesis* and *Queen* threw shells into the upper tower which commanded it. The latter was soon taken possession of by the British troops, who poured down a heavy fire of musquetry on all the lower works, and quickly drove the Chinese from their guns. In two hours the fort was in possession of the English, with a loss of only three killed, and twenty-three wounded; that of the Chinese is estimated at from 500 to 700. Many were killed in the attempt to escape by jumping down from their embrasures, a depth of twenty feet, to the rocks below. The ships and crews escaped unhurt, although the fort mounted thirty-five guns.

At the same time the fort of Tycocktow was attacked by another squadron operating about three miles to the southward, under command of Captain Herbert, of the *Samarang*, supported by the *Druid*, *Modeste*, and *Columbine*. A heavy fire was opened on the fort, and promptly returned, but the Chinese guns were speedily disabled, and a party of seamen landed to seize the fort. The Chinese made a spirited resistance, but were soon overpowered, and the fort captured. The first lieutenant of the *Samarang* was wounded in the assault.

The steam-vessels then attacked the fleet of junks lying in Anson's Bay, but owing to the shallowness of the water, only the *Nemesis* could approach them, towing twelve armed boats from her Majesty's ships. Her first rocket set fire to the powder magazine of one junk; eighteen others were blown up by their own crews, and the rest escaped into the inner waters. Next morning her Majesty's ship *Blenheim* began to throw shells into the batteries at Wantong, and was preparing to attack the chief fort of Anunghoy, when the Chinese Commander-in-chief made a communication to Captain Elliott, who thereupon desisted from further hostilities. On the 20th of January a circular was addressed by the British plenipotentiary to her Majesty's subjects in China, announcing that preliminary arrangements between the Imperial Commissioner and himself had been made to the following effect:

"1. The cession of the island and harbour of Hong Kong to the British crown. All just charges and duties to the empire upon the commerce carried on there to be paid as if the trade were carried on at Whampoa.

2. "An indemnity to the British government of 6,000,000, dollars, 1,000,000, payable at once, and the remainder in equal annual instalments, ending in 1846.

3. "Direct official intercourse between the countries upon an equal footing.

4. "The trade of the port of Canton to be opened within ten days after the Chinese new year, and to be carried on at Whampoa till further arrangements are practicable at the new settlement. Details remain matter of negotiation."

We subjoin the following document put forth by the Imperial Commissioner, Ke-shen, as a Celestial curiosity.

"Ke-shen, a great Minister of State, and Imperial High Commissioner of the second order of hereditary nobility, and acting Governor of the two Kwang Provinces, writes this dispatch for the full information of the Tungche, or Keunmingfoo of Macao.

"The English barbarians are now obedient to orders, and, by an official document, have restored Tinghae and Shaheo; invoking me with the most earnest importunity that I should for them report, and beg (the Imperial) favour.

"At present, all affairs are perfectly well settled. The former order for stopping their trade and cutting off the supplies of provisions, it is unnecessary to enforce; it is for this purpose that I issue these orders to the said Tungche, that he may obey accordingly, without opposition. A special despatch.

The news from India by the overland mail is of no importance, with the exception of the following:—

## THE PUNJAUB.

A revolution has just effected a complete change in the posture of affairs at Lahore. The widow Beebee Chund Koor, deserted by her late crafty coadjutor, Rajah Dhean Singh, has been vanquished by Shere Singh; who, aided by the traitor, has gained over the army to assist his cause, dethroned the Ranee, and established himself in her stead.

Until within a late period, the Ranee, had pursued a successful course of opposition to the movements of Shere Singh, and was seated as regent on the throne. She obtained possession of it very suddenly, and unexpectedly; but so firmly, apparently, did she establish herself, and so disheartened were all the followers of her rival, that it was generally believed that Shere Singh would make no effort to recover his position. Such apathetic conduct, however, was far from his intention, for he set at once vigorously to work and opened a correspondence with the principal sirdahs, and with the three European generals, Ventura, Court, and Avitable. His negotiations were carried on with the greatest secrecy, and he soon had reason to believe that he might depend on considerable support were a strenuous and successful effort made without delay. On the 8th of January, accordingly, the prince left his place of retirement, and proceeded towards the capital, accompanied by a mere handful of troops, amounting to no more than 500 men, the majority consisting of cavalry, with the intention of attacking the fortress of Lahore. By rapid marches, almost unobserved, he reached the vicinity of the capital, and halted at an open spot to await the arrival of general Ventura, who had promised to meet him there. The general

soon joined him with a force consisting of 5,000 or 6,000 horse, and about 700 foot and 21 guns. The formalities of meeting were scarcely concluded, when, to the amazement of all, Rajah Dheen Singh galloped up at the head of some half-dozen of followers. He proclaimed the welcome intelligence that he had deserted the cause of the Ranee, and had come with 15,000 horsemen to join the cause of the prince. Shere Singh received the old man with open arms. It appeared that the force of Chund Koor was greatly diminished, and an easy conquest was anticipated. They all pushed on at once for Lahore, and many joined them on the march. On their arrival the guns were directed at the fortress, and before long a breach was made and a gate blown in, and the troops rushed forward. Even now, however, the result of the conflict was for some time rendered doubtful from the bravery of the Ranee's troops, which kept the large force opposing them at bay for several hours, and it was not until the fort was nearly battered down that Chund Koor resigned the day. On going in, she stipulated for the honourable treatment of herself and her surviving followers, which condition was readily agreed to. Report states the number of killed to be upwards of 2,000.

EGYPT. Mehemet Ali awaits at Alexandria the decision of the Divan. The spirit of the old pasha is not yet broken. His loss of Syria is accounted for by his son Ibrahim Pasha, by the employment of steam vessels of war. "These," said he, "conveyed the enemy here, there, and everywhere, so suddenly, that it would have required wings to keep up with them. One might as well think of fighting with genii." Mehemet declares he will submit to no interference on the part of the Sultan with the details of his government, and will concede nothing beyond the payment of a fixed yearly tribute. Already, in defiance of the hatti-scheriff of the 22nd of January, he has ordered the army to be increased to 70,000, was daily bringing in conscripts in fetters to Cairo, has stopped the supplies of corn shipped at Suez for the Holy Cities, which form their yearly tribute from Egypt, and has raised the French Colonel of Engineers, M. Galise, who recently fortified Alexandria, and is now strengthening Cairo, to the rank of a Bey on full pay, 150 purses (750*l.*) per annum.

The frontiers of Egypt are in a most unsettled state. Melik Ninir is said to have defeated the Pasha's governor of Kartoom. The two great Bedouin tribes, west of the Nile, are at war on their own account: and the inhabitants engaged in the collection of natron at the lakes south of Alexandria, have been extensively plundered. The Pasha's present force is stated to be 55,000 men. The plague and the small pox have been scourging the country, especially the Delta. Hardly an individual attacked escaped death. At Jahu Jallec 28 persons constituting a single household, were carried out dead, followed at last by the owner, an old Bey, governor of the village. 800 men had been left in the Delta by Dr. Grassi, to purify or burn the infected villages.

TURKEY.—The reply which the Porte would return to the letter addressed to the Grand Vizier by Mehemet Ali, a letter soliciting, through his interference, some modifications of the hatti-scheriff in which the hereditary government of Egypt was granted to the Pasha, was not known at Constantinople when the last advices left. Several meetings had been held by the Divan, and Redschid Pasha had had several interviews with foreign ambassadors on the subject, but no conclusion had been arrived at. It was hoped, however, that a satisfactory termination of the Eastern question would be speedily effected.

The Ottoman fleet, after remaining a few days at St. Stephano, waiting a favourable wind, set sail on the 16th, and shortly afterwards entered the Bosphorus. The Sultan had repaired in his steamer to the Kiosks of the Seraglio-Bornou in order to witness the event. The Mahmoudieh ship of the line took the lead, and on doubling the point of the Seraglio fired a salute of 21 guns, which his Highness ordered should be instantly returned. All the other vessels of the fleet followed the example of the Mahmoudieh.

The fleet consisted of 26 sail; eight ships of the line, ten frigates, two corvettes, and six brigs and other light vessels. The entire population of Constantinople and its environs lined the banks of the channel, and crowned the heights which overlook the city in order to enjoy the spectacle. In the course of the afternoon the Sultan went on board the Mahmoudieh, accompanied by all the Pashas, and complimented Admiral Walker, in the most flattering terms, on his conduct throughout the recent occurrences. When his Highness had retired, the members of the *corps diplomatique*, and all the commanders of the ships of war stationed in the harbour, visited the admiral's ship, where they were received by the Capitan Pasha Said Pasha. It was computed that only 8,000 of the crews of the fleet had returned to Constantinople. In June, 1839, when it left for Alexandria, they amounted to at least 21,000 men. The rest had died of the plague, or remained in the service of Mehemet Ali. All the vessels were in the most filthy condition.

SPAIN.—The question of engrossing interest at Madrid is whether the Duke de la Victoria shall be sole regent, or whether he shall be associated in the regency with two others. Public opinion is so divided on this subject as to render it impossible to declare with any certainty on which side it preponderates. The triumvirate party are thought to have a majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The Duke will not allow of a co-partnership in government. Unless chosen as sole regent he will retire to Logrou, into private life; and the fear of this will no doubt induce many to vote according to his wishes, rather than in consonance with the dictates of their own judgment.

At the session of the Chamber on the 31st ult. the autograph resignation of the Queen at Valencia was presented by the government, and referred to the proper section of the chamber. The presentation of this document gave occasion to one of the deputies to rise and ask the Minister of Finance (Ferrer, *ad interim*) whether the ex-Queen Regent was still receiving her pension or not. The minister said he was not prepared to answer the question; but that at present he might say that she received no income from the state. A proposition, signed by a large number of deputies, was then read, requesting the government to present, with the least possible delay, the estimates for the present year. The proposition having been seconded by Muenoz Bueno, the deputy for Badajos, was replied to by the interim Minister of Finance, and taken into consideration by the Chamber. On the President asking if the proposition would be referred for report to the corresponding section of the Chamber, a division took



place, in which there were 74 votes against 57 for sending the proposition to committee. The result of this vote, coupled with the speech which preceded it, a furious attack upon all Spanish ministers of responsibility since 1834, and a threat to all future ministers of the country, must be looked upon as indicative of the searching tone and temper of the present Chamber on subjects of this kind. There were two ex-Ministers of Finance present, Mendizabal and Pito Pizarro. They were both silent.

**PORTUGAL.**—The Special Finance Committee, of which the Duke de Palmella is president, has hitherto met but once. The financial state of the country being obvious to all, and the necessity of sacrifices from all being equally apparent, it was considered that by selecting a committee from all sides, whatever plans were agreed to would come with greater authority before the Chambers and the public. Notwithstanding, however, that the difficulties in which the country is situated might have been expected to have put a stop for a moment to the virulent spirit of party, it did not turn out so. Several of the members refused to serve. The Ministry is still intact, but labours under more than ordinary pecuniary difficulties, the Lisbon Bank and Confianca Company (in which the Bank is a considerable holder) having, at a meeting of the shareholders, convened at the instance of the Minister of Finance, held at the former on Saturday evening last, come to the determination not to make any further advances to the Government upon any anticipations whatever of the revenue, alleging that by their so doing they would endanger the credit of the bank, inasmuch as they had no confidence in the Government. The tobacco contractors have also been solicited to come forward, but they evince a similar disposition to keep possession of their capital. The disturbed and unsettled state of the country offers a melancholy picture throughout; the most brutal assassinations and daring robberies are everywhere perpetrated in open day, and the guerillas rove about almost at pleasure. The magistrate of Parrochia de Vinhos, near Braganza, was murdered a few days since in the act of endeavouring to quell a riot in a gambling shop. Eight ferocious highwaymen, who have long been the terror of the inhabitants of Torrao have, fortunately, lately been captured and imprisoned. Two guerillas, out of a mounted band of ten, were fallen in with by the Queen's troops in the Alemtejo, and killed.

Accounts from America are politically brighter. M'Leod's imprisonment will most likely terminate in a few days. The *Courier* and *Enquirer*, referring to a correspondent at Washington, on whose authority it appears to place implicit reliance, says:

"We are happy to add from the same undoubted source, that the personal relations between Mr. Fox, the British Minister, and Mr. Webster, are of the most friendly nature; and that both of them have distinctly said, within the last few days, that there is not the slightest probability of any thing occurring to disturb the amicable relations existing between England and the United States. The visit of Mr. Crittenden to Lockport is more for the purpose of exhibiting a proper interest in the trial of M'Leod, than to make any demand for his release. There is nothing in the official communication of Mr. Fox to Mr. Webster of an offensive character."

The President, General Harrison, had issued a proclamation, of which the following is a copy, convening an extraordinary sessions of the two Houses of Congress, for Monday, 31st of May.

The President had issued a proclamation, dated Washington, March 17, convening an extraordinary session of the two Houses of Congress, for Monday, the 31st day of May next. The following is a copy of the proclamation.

"OFFICIAL.—A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"Whereas sundry important and weighty matters, principally growing out of the condition of the revenue and finances of the country, appear to me to call for the consideration of Congress at an earlier day than its next annual session, and thus form an extraordinary occasion such as renders necessary, in my judgment, the convening of the two Houses as soon as may be practicable; I do therefore, by this my Proclamation, convene the two Houses of Congress, to meet in the Capitol at the city of Washington, on the last Monday, being the 31st day of May next. And I require the respective senators and representatives then and there to assemble, in order to receive such information respecting the state of the Union as may be given to them, and to devise and adopt such measures as the good of the country may seem to them, in the exercise of their wisdom and discretion, to require.

"In testimony whereof I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed, and signed the same with my hand.

"Done at the city of Washington, this 17th day of March, in the year of our Lord 1841, and of the independence of the United States the 65th.

"By the President, W. H. HARRISON.  
"DANIEL WEBSTER, Secretary of State.

The appointment of General James Hamilton as Minister Plenipotentiary from the government of Texas to that of London has been confirmed by the Senate. The eminent services rendered by this distinguished statesman to our Republic entitle him to the confidence and gratitude of our fellow-citizens.

On the 18th September, 1840, General Hamilton signed with M. Verstolk de Soelen, representative of the Netherlands, the treaty of commerce and navigation between the Republic of Texas and the King of the Netherlands. Although this treaty is less important than those concluded with France and England, it will, nevertheless, extend the foreign relations of the Republic, both as to its commerce and its credit; and will facilitate in a few years the exportation of our produce to the markets of Holland.

The Senate has ratified a convention with England. The English government has engaged to interpose effectually between Texas and Mexico. It is probable that in a few weeks an armistice will be made, in virtue of which, hostilities will be suspended for six months, for the purpose of bringing the pacification of the two countries to a close. If Mexico accepts the mediation of England, this armistice will take place in thirty days after notice given to the Mexican government of the Convention concluded by Lord Palmerston.—*Sentinel of Texas*, Jan. 30.

#### COLONIAL.

**CANADA.** From a private letter of a gentleman now on a tour through Canada, published in the *Morning Chronicle*, it would appear probable that a House of Assembly will be returned, three-fourths of whom approve of Lord Sydenham's policy. As it gives an interesting description of affairs in that province, at a moment when the great experiment of the Union is on the eve of being decided, by the election of the Parliament of the united province, we subjoin the following extracts. The letter is dated Montreal,

March 11; and after stating that the Union had been proclaimed, and Parliament summoned, it proceeds:—

"The elections are now in progress. Even as respects Lower Canada they are very favourable to the Union, and to the policy which dictated it. Seven returns for this province have already been made, of which four are in favour of the government; and I think before to-morrow, when the post leaves, there will be several more. I shall keep my letter open to the latest moment to let you know the most recent results. The success at Beauharnois is really a triumph to the Unionists—Dewitt, the defeated candidate, being quite a leading man in what is called the French party, having represented the county in several parliaments, and being well supplied with the resources by which elections are carried in representative governments all over the world. He is an American—shrewd, calculating, and thoroughly republican. Mr. Dunscombe, who has defeated him, is an English merchant, formerly connected with Newfoundland, and in his politics thoroughly liberal, and a supporter of Lord Sydenham. He will, no doubt, be a very useful member.

"There will scarcely be less than fifteen members in the British or Union interest (or, it may be said, in favour of Lord Sydenham's policy,) in Lower Canada. There are already four. The townships return six, and Quebec and Montreal two each. For the latter there is every reason to believe that two fair representatives of the mercantile interest will be elected by each. There was a meeting here this morning, at which Mr. Moffat and Mr. Holmes were selected as the candidates, the former a partner in the London house of Mr. Gillespie, and at the head of the wealthiest firm in Canada; the latter, an Irishman, and Cashier of the Montreal Joint Stock Bank. The election comes on the 22nd of this month."

The writer admits that there has been some rioting at the elections, and endeavours to excuse it: from which we gather that the English party have resorted pretty freely to intimidation; and that by any and every means, the policy of the Governor must be confirmed. He proceeds,—

"About the elections in Upper Canada I am not so well informed: but there is every reason to expect a very large majority in favour of the Union, or of the British policy as propounded by Lord Sydenham. The Family Compact party are, however, making a dying effort to recover or to strengthen their position; and having for many years been the channel through which the government was administered, and patronage whether lucrative or merely honorary, dispensed, they have a very extensive influence. All the small local appointments, of which there are many in Upper Canada, have for years been at their disposal—all appointments to the magistracy and militia have been through their recommendations, and, of course, they have taken care to bring forward few that did not coincide with them in politics. Having, moreover, been long the occupants of office, it is not surprising if, in a country where there is no idle class, they have acquired a facility in managing public business, and a general knowledge of public matters, which is not possessed by any other class. This made it almost inevitable that a Governor should fall in the first instance into their hands, and once in, he would have been exceeding clever to get out. This also, and what I have mentioned above, effectually blinded successive Governors to the unpopularity of the party, and led them to suppose that their opponents were either restless schemers—*rerum novarum aridi*, or republicans in heart, seeking a subversion of the government; and as the Governors came only in contact with the upper ranks of society—magistrates, officers of militia, official servants, &c., and these were, of course, adherents of the Compact party,—there was little chance or opportunity to remove the original blindness. But, let Governors think as they may, by the great mass of the people that party is detested. My proof is in the members sent to the Assembly during the last few years. All know what they were in the Assembly dissolved by Sir Francis Head. The election which followed took place under the most favourable circumstances, for the Compact, which it is possible to conceive. A party in the former Assembly, who had long, for their own purposes, called themselves Reformers, had almost thrown off the mask and called themselves rebels. Their conduct had brought discredit on the whole Reform party, which had been fostered and increased by Sir F. Head's agitation. Yet the Parliament returned under such auspices, within four years, voted for the Union and the present administration, against the most strenuous efforts of the Family Compact; nay, they abandoned the principles for which they had contended on former occasions in respect to Civil List, &c., rather than throw any difficulties in the way of a Governor who was disposed to throw off the Compact yoke. If this be not sufficient proof, I shall be content to abide the result of the present elections.

"Parliament will probably meet about the beginning of May, before which time the roads will scarcely be practicable, or the necessary accommodation prepared.

**TRADE IN SYDNEY.**—Private accounts from Sydney represent trade, and business generally, to be deplorably bad. English slop goods are said to be selling at 50 per cent. under the prime cost. When the Maria Watson left wheat was down to 4s. and some heavy bets have been made that it would be as low as 3s 6d per bushel. The harvest is spoken of as promising very abundantly, but fears are entertained on the score of labour. The Sydney Government have purchased two cargoes of wheat, which are being secured in the siloes on Cockatoo Island. The quantity is 30,000 bushels, and the price, we understand, was 5s. 6d. a bushel. Ten additional siloes, to hold about 5,000 bushels each, are being formed, which it is probable will also be filled, if wheat continues at its present price.

A file of the *Inquirer*, a new paper published in Perth, Western Australia, has been received. It comprises the first four numbers of the journal, from the 5th to the 26th August. It contains but little news. A bill to admit the evidence of the aborigines in Criminal cases had passed the Legislative Council. The resumption of Colonel Latour's land had been rescinded. This is the land which was to have been the site of the new settlement of Australind.—*Colonial Gazette*.

#### DOMESTIC.

##### METROPOLITAN.

There was a report this afternoon that Mrs. Roberts had received a letter from her husband, the captain of the President, and that he had put into Madeira with damage; but on sending to that lady, it was found that the report was utterly groundless.

In the early part of yesterday evening the son of Mr. Power the comedian, called upon Mr. Webster, the manager of the Haymarket Theatre, to inform him that Mrs. Power had received several letters from Liverpool, bringing the intelligence that the President had been seen going into the Madeiras, with her rudder and engines damaged. We sincerely trust the intelligence is correct; at all events we may conclude, that no one would, on slight grounds, tamper with the feelings of Mrs. Power (who is already in a state of distraction for the fate of her husband) by adopting any vague rumours.—*Globe*, April 13.

The Chancellor of the exchequer has appointed Friday, the 30th of April, as the day on which he intends to bring forward his annual financial statement, commonly known as "the Budget."

We are authorised to contradict the report that it is the intention of lord Teignmouth to accept the Chiltern Hundreds after the easter recess.

The committee of Lloyd's have passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Drummond Hay, the English Consul-general at Tangier, for his active and zealous exertions in the interests of British merchants and ship-owners, as displayed in the late cases of shipwreck on the coast of Barbary.



The revenue accounts for the years and quarters ending April 5, 1840, and 1841, give the following comparative results:—

The income for the year ended 5 April, 1840, is £44,985,166; for the year ended 5 April, 1841, £44,675,886. The decrease on the year is £309,280.

The income for the quarter ended 5 April, 1840, is £8,679,714; for the quarter ended April 5, 1841, 8,609,200. The decrease on the quarter is £70,514.

On the year ended 5 April, 1841, as compared with the year ended 5 April, 1840, there is a decrease in the Customs of £301,042, and in the Post-office of £833,000. There is in the Excise an increase of £489,299, in the Stamps of £162,722, and in the Taxes of £275,019.

On the quarter there is a decrease in the Customs of £54,115, in the Excise of £44,526, in the Post-office of £27,000, while in the Stamps there is an increase of £19,216, and in the Taxes of £42,987.

There would have been an increase in the revenue of the year of upwards of £520,000, but for the diminution in the revenue of the Post-office.

Looking at the increased expenditure rendered necessary by naval and military expeditions during the past year, the progressive decrease of our finances assumes a serious aspect.

The first annual public meeting of the York-road British schools took place last evening at the Royal Infirmary for Children, Waterloo-road, Benjamin Hawes, Esq., M.P., in the chair; the Rev. G. Clayton, A. White, Esq., M.P., Messrs. Dunn and Althans, from the parent society; and many of the most influential gentlemen of the neighbourhood were on the platform. The Secretary read the report, from which it appeared that the want of schools in that part of the metropolis was so great, that within a few weeks of the opening of the British schools, about a twelvemonth back, they were thronged by some hundreds of the children of the poorer classes. A considerable expense had been incurred in fitting up the school-rooms, &c. There was a balance of above 100% against the institution. Several important statistical facts relative to the present state of education in London were elicited in the course of the evening; among others, it was stated, from parliamentary returns, that in the city of Westminster, out of between 30,000 and 40,000 children of an age capable of receiving instruction in the rudiments of knowledge, upwards of 16,000 had no education. Amongst the subscriptions announced during the evening were—Benjamin Hawes, Esq., M.P., 5*l.* additional; Joshua Field, Esq., 5*l.*, in addition to ten guineas formerly subscribed, &c.

The Select Committee appointed to inquire into Joint Stock Companies is to consist, we believe, of the following members of the House of Commons—viz., Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Sheil (the President and Vice-president of the Board of Trade), Lord G. Somerset, Mr. G. W. Wood, Sir T. Freemantle, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Attwood, Mr. Clay, Mr. R. Godson, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. W. G. Craig, Mr. Freshfield, Mr. Baring (Thetford), and Mr. Brownrigg.

#### TESTIMONIAL TO THE SHERIFFS OF LONDON.

A MEETING of the subscribers to the testimonial to be presented to William Evans and John Wheelton, Esqs., late Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, was held at the London Coffee House, Ludgate Hill, on Wednesday last at two o'clock, for carrying into effect the wishes of the subscribers. Hughes Hughes, Esq. late M. P. for Oxford, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN in opening the business, observed, that he was most willing to bear his testimony of respect and admiration to the conduct of the gentlemen in whose favour the testimonial was subscribed. It was true the interest had, in some degree, subsided, by reason of an act of parliament having since been introduced on the subject on which their claim to notice and respect arose. But so far from that detracting from the merit that succeeding ages would attach to them for the patriotic and national manner in which they had upheld the just privileges of the subject and the laws of the country, that estimation would only be enhanced by the circumstance that the legislature thought it its duty to guard against the recurrence of such a state of things as led to the difficulty in which the sheriffs were placed, and in which they had shown so much integrity and uprightness of purpose, [hear, hear.] He should now call upon the treasurer to read a statement of the receipts and expenditure.

The TREASURER stated that a sum of £320 15*s.* had been received, and £55 6*s.* was yet to be collected, making a total of £376 1*s.* A sum of £65 5*s.* had been expended in advertisements, printing, and other incidental expenses, and the balance which would be available for the purposes of the testimonial would be about three hundred guineas. He understood that Mr. Sheriff Evans, who had been consulted along with his colleague upon the matter, had expressed a wish that the articles presented to him should be a silver salver and two ice vases, and Mr. Sheriff Wheelton wished that his should be a candelabrum to correspond with that which had been lately presented him by the corporation.

Mr. WIRE said, of course it should be the object of the subscribers to have the money expended in a way which would be most pleasing to the sheriffs, but he wished to know, whether the committee were at liberty to go and order the articles when they thought proper.

The CHAIRMAN said, perhaps he should have given some explanation of what had previously taken place. The presentation of the plate had been so long delayed, that the committee thought they might take a step in advance, and after conferring with the sheriffs, it was suggested that the sheriffs should each order the articles they had selected from their own goldsmiths, and not to exceed 150 guineas in value—whatever deficiency there might be in the subscriptions, to be made up by the sheriffs themselves. Now, whether the managing committee had exceeded their powers in so doing, it was for the meeting to determine.

After some further discussion, it was proposed by Mr. WIRE that the four treasurers, the chairman, and the Rev. Mr. Jennings, prebendary of Westminster, be appointed a committee for the ordering and arrangement of the plate.—The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. WIRE then moved, that the following be the inscription on the plate—'This silver salver and two ice vases, (or candelabrum,) was presented to William Evans, Esq., (or John Wheelton, Esq.), at the expiration of his year of office, as one of the sheriffs of London, and

joint sheriff of Middlesex, in testimony of the high approbation of the subscribers of the conduct of himself and his colleague, in preferring to endure a painful and protracted imprisonment, rather than submit to the undefined and arbitrary privilege assumed by the House of Commons, whereby they were required to violate their oath of office; and disobey the Queen's writ, which they had sworn to observe, and to perpetuate the high sense of the respect and admiration entertained by the subscribers of the firmness and dignity displayed by the sheriffs during their imprisonment, in vindication of the majesty of the law, and the just liberty of the subject.' It was unnecessary for him to say one word upon a subject which had been so frequently discussed, but it should be borne in mind, that notwithstanding the boastings of the House of Commons, and all their turnings and shifts, they were compelled to submit to the judgment of a court of law; and all who venerated their institutions and their liberty, should be ready to come forward and acknowledge their obligations to the sheriffs, who had so firmly resisted the arbitrary encroachments of power.

Mr. TAYLOR seconded the motion. He would remind the meeting that only one part of the grievances had yet been redressed, for the House of Commons could still declare anything a privilege which it pleased. The same arbitrary power had recently extended itself to the army, and Ecclesiastical Court, and the Court of Session in Scotland, and it was their duty to do all they could to resist it. Curiously enough a nearly similar case had recently occurred in Newfoundland, and the House of Commons which had so daringly attempted to set itself above all law, had brought forward as an argument for destroying the legislative body of Newfoundland, that it had taken upon itself to supersede the law of the land by imprisoning a sheriff and one of the judges of that colony [hear, hear].

The motion was carried unanimously.

After some discussion, as to the time when the plate should be presented, it was agreed that the committee should be entrusted with the arrangements on that point also.

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

#### PROVINCIAL.

Twenty-eight families, tenants of E. S. Godfrey, Esq., Godfrey Tallents, Esq., and the duke of Newcastle, have, it is said, received notices to quit their dwellings for daring to "do as they like with their own" in the borough of Newark.

From the *Anti-Corn-Law Circular* of the 8th inst., we learn that 'the league' is carrying on the repeal movement with vigour. At Leeds, Huddersfield, Carlisle, Darlestone, Hawick, and Minnihiwe (Dumfriesshire), important public meetings have been held, all of which were characterized by an enthusiastic spirit. The *Leeds Times* of the 27th ult. states, "The West Riding is now moving upon the important question of the corn-laws. The Huddersfield Anti-Corn-law Association had a splendid demonstration on Thursday last; and Bradford, Halifax, and other towns are preparing immediately to follow. By the end of the Easter recess, we expect that almost every town and village of importance throughout the country will have petitioned against the corn-law enactments."

In bringing forward a motion, at the Manchester Town Council, for the adoption of a petition, praying for a total and immediate abolition of the corn-laws, Alderman Cobden, in the course of a most powerful speech, stated the loss to the country by the corn and provision laws at 50,000,000*l.* per annum on the quantity produced at home, estimating the enhancement of price by a fixed duty of 10*s.* a quarter, and adding to that immense sum 2,500,000*l.* as the tax on five millions of quarters, which he would assume as the quantity imported. "It will not be supposed," he said, "that I am contending that the landlords pocket the whole of this money; a great deal of it goes for waste. And I could not better illustrate the way in which it is wasted, than by supposing a case with reference to another article of produce, one which will be familiar to all the gentlemen present. I will suppose that the whole of the cotton which is consumed in England was grown in England; and this, I believe, is not an impossible case. I hold in my hand a specimen of cotton grown in Manchester (by my friend Mr. Bazley, in his engine-house), which in staple is superior to any of the cotton exhibited in this market—superior even to the Sea Island cotton. Now, I have requested Mr. Bazley to favour me with an estimate of what would be the cost of growing the whole amount of cotton which we consume here in this country." [Here the calculation is given, and the result is, that the price paid for monopoly would be the difference between 12,000,000*l.* and 240,000,000*l.*] "Now, supposing such a state of things as this to be arrived at; suppose that we had a million of acres covered with glass, and two or three millions of labourers employed in these hot houses; and that we had a body of men, plumbers and glaziers, who, along with the owners of this land, had the possession of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, I have no doubt at all that very good arguments then might be found—I have no doubt that every argument which is now advanced in defence of the system of corn laws, might be urged in defence of our growth in this country of the cotton we consume." [Mr. Cobden thus treats the much-vexed point of total and immediate repeal in reference to its expediency:] "I don't think that any one will dispute the justice of putting an immediate end to such an inordinate, such a crying iniquity as I have been describing. (Applause.) But the expediency of so doing may very fairly come under our consideration. I have given much attention to this subject, and have made many inquiries about it amongst agriculturists themselves; and I find that the universal opinion is, that if the corn-law is to be abolished—to be totally repealed, then the best thing for the farmer is, that it should be repealed immediately, and not gradually. (Applause.) I had that once illustrated to me in a very forcible manner by a farmer, a plain man, with whom I was conversing, who said, 'If you take off a shilling a year, until you get it all off, it will be like cutting off that sheep-dog's tail one inch every day, instead of taking it off at once.' (Applause and laughter.) If you repeal the law at once, you give the tenant a good ground for the reduction of his rent, and the farmer is enabled to go to his landlord with a strong case for adjustment; but by a vanishing duty, which shall gradually go down to nothing, you will give rise to a fresh series of bargains every year." [The following solemn appeal to justice closes Mr. Cobden's speech:]



"I would exhort those who have any fears on this question to endeavour to satisfy their minds what is strictly just in the case; and having done so, I would say, leave the consequences to the God of justice—be just and fear not." (Loud applause.) He then begged to move, that petitions be presented by the Council to both houses of parliament, praying for the total and immediate repeal of the corn-laws. (Applause.)

A very numerous and enthusiastic meeting of the Mitcham Anti-Corn-law Association was held last Wednesday evening. The King's Head was fixed upon originally as the place of meeting, but so great was the excitement, and so numerous the attendance, that it was found necessary to adjourn to the large room at the White Hart Inn, Lower Mitcham. Mr. Smith, Secretary to the Metropolitan Anti-Corn-law Association, addressed the meeting for nearly three hours, and was greatly applauded throughout. At the conclusion of his lecture, he observed that people were wont to say that there is no use in petitioning the House of Commons. After the debates of Monday night, he thought they had no right to say so, as the declarations of the government, and even of the most eminent members of the opposition, upon that occasion, proved incontestably that if we did not get cheap bread and free trade, the fault would lie with the people themselves [cheers]. Neither Sir Robert Peel, nor Lord J. Russell, nor both combined, could fight single-handed against the powers of corruption, but if backed by the irresistible force of the people from without, such statesmen must be irresistible. Let us not complain of our representatives (said Mr. Smith) till we have done our duty. Out of a population of twenty-eight millions, only one million and a half had as yet demanded repeal, whereas to justify the mighty change contemplated, there ought to be at least three millions of signatures, which he hoped was not a vain expectation [great cheering]. Several Chartists attended the meeting and threatened at first great opposition, but it was limited to the proposal of another chairman, instead of Mr. Aitkin, who was, however, chosen by a vast majority, and they suffered things to proceed with regularity. It was nearly half-past eleven o'clock before the audience separated, after which a numerous meeting of the committee took place, when the most active measures were adopted for the procuring of petitions from the inhabitants of the district against the existing corn-laws.

Mr. Acland's course, during the last week, through Beaconsfield, Great Missenden, Marlow, Chalfont, and Risborough has been a most triumphant one. Everywhere has he been received with a hearty welcome, and in every town have his opponents been compelled to skulk away from his fearless and well-directed attacks. Buckinghamshire will, indeed, be revolutionized from end to end on the subject of the corn-laws; and it is expected that as many petitions will be sent for repeal from this agricultural county as from any county of similar extent in England. On Monday and Thursday evenings Mr. Acland lectured at Brill, and was attentively listened to by upwards of a thousand persons. He commenced by denouncing the libel that had been industriously circulated on the men of Brill by their enemies, that they were mere brutes in conduct; the reception he met with from them disproved the statement. He then in a long and argumentative address drew the attention of his hearers to the importance of the subject and to the unscriptural and unjust nature of those laws. He was frequently greeted with the most enthusiastic plaudits, and personal confirmation of many of his statements from the experience of the bystanders was expressed. Mr. Acland forcibly appealed to his hearers upon the statement made by the duke of Buckingham that the agricultural labourers in this locality were in a prosperous state, well paid, well fed, and happy! amidst cries of "no they are not," "he is a false man," and such like. Mr. Acland's opinion was that the duke's statements were false, and he would call on those around him, who thought the same, to hold up their hands in testimony thereof. Abundance of hands were immediately held up. He then called on those who believed the duke's statement to be right, to hold up theirs, but not one was held up. A fire had been lighted in the street, in front of Mr. Knight's, where beer was to be given away. This was alluded to by the lecturer, who observed that their opponents thought to divert by such means the attention of his hearers from the subject; this tended to show them in their true characters, and to prove to him that the people were alive to the subject of the corn-laws, not a hearer leaving to partake of the ale offered them. The local paper adds, that about a score of persons (some calling themselves gentlemen), interrupted the lecturer continually, endeavouring to prevent his being heard; and that the conduct of the constables was most disgraceful.

## IRELAND.

The commission appointed by the Lord-lieutenant to inquire into the best mode of allocating the money, heretofore granted by parliament to the Dublin Society for the promotion of practical science and useful knowledge amongst the Irish people, are about to enter upon the important duty assigned them. The following letter has been sent to the commissioners by Mr. Norman Macdonald, under-secretary:—

"Dublin Castle, March 29, 1841.

"My Lords and Gentlemen—From your known zeal for the advancement of science and the diffusion of useful knowledge, the Lord-lieutenant is desirous of obtaining your advice, in what form and under what regulations the parliamentary grant of 5,300*l.*, hitherto voted to the Dublin Society, might be most effectually devoted to the above object for the benefit of the Irish nation, as, in consequence of the refusal of the Dublin Society to make, at the instance of government, certain changes in its constitution and management, which were strongly recommended by parliamentary committees, his Excellency has felt it his duty to intimate to that society his intention of declining to propose to parliament a continuance of their grant.

"The chief points to which his Excellency wishes to direct your attention are, whether it would be desirable to form an entirely new institution, either separate from or in connexion with any or with all these societies now established in Dublin for the promotion of science and the useful arts, or to assist them severally in their present forms.

"It will be also for you to consider and advise upon the particular organization by which scientific institutions would seem best fitted, in your opinion, to attain these objects, and which ought, therefore, to

be required by parliament as the condition upon which they should receive support from the state.

"His Excellency will direct that you shall be furnished with the report of the committee of the House of Commons, in 1836, upon the management of the Dublin Society, as well as that on the Irish Estimates, in 1839, and the evidence taken before them, which will afford you much valuable information on the points above referred to.—I have, &c.

"N. H. MACDONALD.

"To his Grace the Duke of Leinster, the Earl of Rosse, the Viscount Adare, Sir John Burgoyne, Sir William Hamilton, Captain Larcom, Professor Lloyd, Professor M'Cullagh."

The registry for the division of Birr, King's County, occupied Monday and Tuesday, 5th and 6th instant. The following is the return:—Liberals, brought up, 36; new registries, 16; re-registries, 20; rejected, 5. Tories, brought up, 149; new registries, 58; re-registries, 91; rejected, 20. Fifty-pound affidavits produced: Liberals, brought up, 2; new registries, 2. Tories, brought up, 44; new registries, 7; re-registries, 37; rejected, 3; stand over, 12. The result is a majority of 125 for the tories. The foregoing is an accurate account of the registry at Birr. In the calculation, the doubtful men, who are all Roman catholics, are given to the tories.

At length the subject of railroads for Ireland is taken up in good earnest, a number of English capitalists have come forward with the necessary funds, and they are to be secured by the government in a certain per centage on their outlay. We understand that the Messrs. Baring stand at the head of the list.—*Waterford Chronicle*.

## SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

(*Morning Chronicle*.)

We elsewhere insert a letter from Mr. W. B. Taylor, Hatfield Street, on the subject of a report of a trial at Kingston, in the *Chronicle* of Monday last, in which he was plaintiff.

It struck us, on reading the report, in which Mr. Taylor alleges there are some inaccuracies, that a hard measure of justice was dealt out to him. He had opposed the proceedings at the vestry, which agreed to the rate for which he was summoned before the magistrates as a defaulter; and having first verbally, and afterwards in writing (by direction of the magistrates), declared that he disputed the validity of the rate, the magistrate, against whom he brought his action, disregarded the *caveat*, and ordered a distraint upon his goods. Mr. Taylor states, that on a former occasion a similar *caveat* was deemed sufficient by the same magistrate; but he adds, that this last time he stood alone, whereas on the former occasion several other gentlemen also disputed the validity of the rate, and it was perhaps thought hazardous to attempt to distrain on them.

There is a curious diversity in the mode of action of magistrates respecting church-rates. In the case of Mr. Baines, at Leicester, who did not even dispute the validity of the rate, but merely stated that he could not conscientiously pay it,\* he is at once tumbled head foremost, as it were, into the ecclesiastical court, in order to be immured in a dungeon. In the cases at Hackney, the other day, there seemed also to be an eagerness to elicit a declaration from the defaulters that they disputed the validity of the rate, in order to have an opportunity of throwing them into the ecclesiastical court. But in the case of Mr. Taylor, the most positive written declaration, that he disputed the validity of the rate, is disregarded.

Mr. Baron Parke, according to Mr. Taylor, stated in his charge that he ought to have assigned some *feasible reasons* for disputing the legality of the rate. If this be a sound opinion, which we cannot bring ourselves to believe, the magistrates may make the provision in the act of parliament, empowering defaulters to decline their jurisdiction, a mere nullity. To whom are the reasons to appear feasible? To the magistrates, of course. Why, it is because the defaulter has no confidence in the magistrates that he declines their jurisdiction. If they are to be judges of the feasibility of the reasons, they may as well be allowed to decide without appeal. Mr. Taylor sensibly observes, "Had I the most distant conception that the magistrates had any jurisdiction, constituted as I well knew the court would be, I should never have been so Quixotic as to attempt to dispute the legality of the rate before them. The vestry clerk makes the rate, he selects the magistrate before whom defaulters are summoned, he attends in the anomalous character of clerk and legal adviser of the magistrates on the validity of his own rate, and also as solicitor for the churchwardens; the parties summoned are admitted one at a time, and not even the check of publicity, as in most courts of justice, is allowed; what hope could an opposer of church rates have from a court thus constituted?"

On legal questions we never wish to speak confidently, but we hardly ever saw a case with respect to which we had less difficulty in pronouncing an opinion than the present. It will surprise us much if the sense of the profession is in favour of the charge of Baron Parke.

\*Our contemporary is in error here; Mr. Baines did put in a written document, disputing the validity of the rate, but did not make any appeal to the ecclesiastical court.

(*Sun.*)

NATIONS, like individuals, we apprehend, cannot successfully attend to more than one thing at one time. Whenever a nation, consequently, has any great object to accomplish, he is not a wise man—he may be a vain man, a self-conceited man, a crotchety man—who essays to attract its attention to many things at the same time. Still less is he a wise man who admits the importance of some one paramount object, and yet is perpetually frittering away and diverting attention from that to some crotchet or conceit of his own. Without meaning to be particularly personal in the application of these remarks, we must say that the Liberal or Radical members seem to us to act in direct defiance of this principle, and try all they can do to dissipate and divert attention from that which is most essential.

It is not for us to assert that one grievance is more pressing than another, that the abolition of church-rates should have the preference to the abolition of the corn-laws, that the revision of the tariff should precede both, or that the extension of the suffrage should come first of all; but we do say that the great mission of the liberal or radical members is to remove or abolish grievances, and that they ought to make all their personal crotchets, plans, and considerations subservient to that great public end. Their business is to study the wants and wishes of the people, and, disregarding their own views, to endeavour to give effect to public opinion. However flattering it may be to Messrs. HAWES, EWART, GROTE, &c., to suppose that they are sent into parliament, each man to embody his own pet crotchet into a law, we beg to assure them that such is not the case, and as popular representatives they are bound to do the work of the popular party, not their own. If it be otherwise, what better off are the people than when they had a boroughmongering parliament, and when gentlemen, because they bought their seats, avowed that their time, their talents, and their votes were at their own irresponsible disposal.

On these principles we ask Mr. EWART where are the great number of



petitions requiring the appointment of a minister of public instruction, with which he would have diverted public attention if he could from all other things, the night before last? Did the public demand it, or was it Mr. EWART's own peculiar nostrum? We ask Mr. Hawes, too, when has the public voice cried so loud for his medical reform, that it must, whether or not, be thrust on the public notice? When such things are mooted in parliament, the public are obliged to attend to them, otherwise we should be soon overwhelmed with noxious restrictions. But though the medical profession may be far from theoretically perfect, it answers all the purposes of society tolerably well, and those who most complain of it are men who, from some circumstances or other, have little or no practice. We must ask Mr. GROTE also, where are the many petitions calling for a different appropriation of the New South Wales land fund, that he should make that the object of a repeated motion in parliament? Some little clique of jobbers in the city, anxious to profit by what is now called the bounty on emigration, may be deeply interested in that land fund, but for the public here, for whose especial benefit the parliament legislates, it is of the smallest conceivable importance.

As for Mr. EWART's motion, it appeared to us nothing better than a sorry imitation of the customs of other countries, a part only of which Mr. EWART sees and comprehends. In England the greater part of the education of the people is conducted by private hands, as a private speculation. Few or none of our endowed and public schools, and none of our private schools, are under the control of the state. Schoolmasters are not licensed, nor appointed by any council or board; they engage in this work as a matter of trade. With us education has hitherto formed no part of the duty of the state. It has left the people to teach themselves. As the state cannot possibly know what sort of education will be useful to individuals, or suitable to their circumstances, the state acts only in accordance with the principles of freedom and common sense when it contents itself with protecting and enforcing the right of individuals, and leaves them to learn what is useful.

This may be, in Mr. EWART's opinion, and the opinion of some other gentlemen, a bad system, but we cannot adopt their conclusion. Looking at the great results, seeing the commanding position Britain has attained in Europe, seeing the talents and victories of her naval and military officers, and the intrepidity of her people, seeing the skill of her workmen, the superiority of her literature, the clearness of her practical philosophy, and her equality nearly to other nations in most of the fine arts; looking at the results of this system in the great renown of the nation, we cannot agree with those who decry it.

In France and Prussia the whole of the education of the people is under the direction or control of the state. No schoolmaster must teach without a license. No gentleman or lady take boarders without the sanction of the public authorities. Every high school in France is connected with the University of Paris; or, in Prussia, depends immediately, on the Council of State, or city authorities, which are under the general government, as parochial schools are regulated by parochial authorities, which depend on the provincial governments. Their system may be better than ours; but looking at the enterprise, mental independence, and success of the different nations, we do not think it is. But be that as it may, a minister of public instruction may be very suitable to the general educational institutions of France and Prussia, which are all dependent on the state, and very unsuitable to our educational institutions, which are of the nature of private speculation.

We have long been surprised at the patience with which the protestant dissenters, who have a conscientious aversion to popery, submit to ecclesiastical tribunals, and to ecclesiastical taxes. The dissenters must remember that Mr. NICHOL lately informed the public from his place in parliament that the ecclesiastical courts are not the QUEEN's courts, but the bishop's courts, and were not affected by an act of parliament, restraining the Queen's courts. To obey them is, therefore, to obey the bishop in spiritual matters; and we cannot reconcile the consistency of the dissenters in deserting the church for conscience sake, incurring all the guilt of schism, and still submitting to the Bishop's jurisdiction, as exercised in the courts which were established by papal bishops for papal purposes. Such conduct is neither consistent nor conscientious. At various periods the dissenters have stood out stoutly against the church and state combined; and it will be disgraceful to them, when the state will not take an active part against them, if they now submit to the church alone, and humble themselves before the enthroned bishops or their representatives, when, by one spirited and unanimous remonstrance, they might cast off this remnant of the papal yoke from their necks for ever.

(Spectator.)

#### TRIUMPHANT RESULTS OF THE WHIG POLICY IN CHINA.

The dogberries of government are loud in their self-felicitations about the news by the overland mail. "There is no country in the world," says the *Chronicle*, "in which a minister is more frequently tried than in England by the unjust test of the results rather than the principles of his policy; and we think we may say with confidence, that there have been few ministers that have stood the test more triumphantly than the present." It must certainly be a great subject of congratulation to ministers to know that their foreign policy meets with approbation—when tried by an "unjust test."

The *Chronicle* has thus dexterously and judiciously sought to shelve "the principles" of the quarrel with China. There is so much of truth in the pithy axiom announced by that journal that ministers are in this country most frequently tried by "the unjust test" of their success, that were their success in China beyond dispute, there would be nothing remaining for all who question their principles, but to enter a protest—an appeal from the people in the intoxication of success, to the people become sober again, and called upon to pay the bill, under the influence of a headache, the consequence of their debauch—and drop the controversy for the present. Honesty is the best policy; and a less restricted intercourse with China, purchased by an opium war, might have its advantages materially neutralized by the fraud and violence which procured it.

In short, result of the the whole transaction seems to be—That the Directors of the East India Company (who have a monopoly of the opium grown in their territories,) and some British merchants resident in Canton, have for some time carried on a lucrative smuggling-trade in opium, the Chinese government seized their stock on hand at Whampoa; that in consequence of this, the British government fitted out a fleet and army, which took possession of a town in Chusan, battered down two or three Chinese forts, lost a great many men by sickness, and frightened the Chinese government into ceding to our queen a barren island near the mouth of the Canton river, promising to treat English diplomatic agents with civility, and undertaking to pay by instalments in the course of six years a portion of the expenses of the expedition; and that the Governor-general of India is to endeavour to persuade the British government to indemnify the Canton merchants, for the purpose of enabling them to pay the East India Company, out of the taxes raised in Great Britain, and to defray the surplus expense incurred by the expedition over and above the contribution of the

Chinese government. Lastly, even this settlement has not yet been ratified by either government.

The whig organs must be sadly at a loss for something to brag of, when they make such a hallooing about this trumpety affair.

(Examiner.)

#### THE TRUE USES OF A FALLING REVENUE.

"It is a melancholy reflection," says Dean Tucker, in one of his many admirable tracts on commercial subjects, "but for the most part it is too true, that nations, as nations, never can learn wisdom till necessity becomes their schoolmistress." Perhaps the best criterion of the truth of the remark is to be found in the shifts and expedients of chancellors of the Exchequer. But as the present necessities of Mr. Baring are great, we would fain hope that he may profit by the lessons of his perhaps unwelcome teacher. Her authority just now must be acknowledged. Not only a chancellor of the Exchequer, but the whole nation, is her pupil. Whether either the one or the other will imbibe wisdom from her teaching remains to be seen. If Mr. Baring, however, do but expound the lessons of wisdom, he may learn at her hands, clearly and firmly, we venture to predict, that the nation, if not the House of Commons, will not only profit by, but adopt them.

The revenue is declining. The expenditure of the country is increasing. The per centage patchwork of last year, which was resorted to for the purpose of raising our income to the level of our expenditure, has failed, as we predicted when the experiment was made.

The income we were to derive from the additional ten per cent. upon our customs, excise, and taxes, has scarcely yielded a paltry five per cent. The country looked on and smiled at beholding another chancellor of the Exchequer attempting to resist once more the financial axiom, that in taxation two and two do not make four. The effort, indeed, was only worthy of a disciple of the school of Vansittart; and the result was about as abortive as the financial schemes of the master.

But though the attempt to increase the revenue, by directly augmenting the tax upon every raw material and necessary of life, failed—as it ought always to fail, the object aimed at—the placing of our income and expenditure upon a level, must be accomplished.

It is a question as earnestly as universally asked, by every one who knows the perilous nature of the pressure upon our trade and our population at home at the present moment, and upon our widely scattered interests abroad;—what will the chancellor of the Exchequer do? We are by no means in that thriving and contented state at home which a statesman, either in or out of place, would desire to contemplate. There is a strong sense gaining ground of the injustice and the injurious tendency of our system of taxation. It has recently manifested itself in many large and respectable public meetings, both in England and Scotland, held in several of our most important commercial cities and towns. Free trade, as far as the just necessities of our revenue will permit, and a revision of the tariff, have been loudly called for and most ably advocated. Not by interested partisans or mischievous demagogues, the subject is one far too practically useful for them; but by men of all parties, and by some of the ablest and the most experienced authorities in matters of this kind amongst us. Hence any renewal of *Vansittartism* would be scouted with derision through the country. The country fully admits the necessity of meeting all necessary expenditure, but demands, not clamorously but resolutely, that this object shall be attained, *justly and honestly*. Let us, before we proceed further, however, glance at our interests abroad, with a view to our future financial demands.

The Levant question is, we are told, "settled." But the settlements of statesmen, where no great moral principle is the basis of a treaty, are not of a very enduring character, as the history of every treaty, from that of the great Treaty of Westphalia to the present time, amply testifies. Our original interference between Turkey and Egypt was neither called for upon any principle of justice, nor demanded for the vindication of national honour or the protection of our commercial interests, and still less was it founded upon any recognised principle of British policy. We regard the affairs of the Levant, therefore, to be still in an unsatisfactory state, and the "settlement" achieved, dependent more upon our power to enforce and maintain it, than upon either its justice or its policy.

The China question, too, is in train of settlement; and if it be settled on principles of justice and of reciprocal benefit, none will rejoice more than ourselves.

The boundary question, is still a question and a mystery:

"All that we know is, nothing can be known,"

But the interests awakened by our recent policy (we are not now entering at all into the necessity or wisdom of our foreign diplomacy) are all of so delicate a character, and have needlessly evoked so much popular and angry jealousy on the part of a powerful rival, that some time must elapse before these "settlements" will become apparent in our naval and military estimates; and this is the point of view in which alone we are now regarding them. Our defensive establishment, therefore, we deem fixed at nearly its present amount for no short period to come.

Whilst, however, our expenditure is likely to continue the same, our revenue declines. The *Standard* expresses an opinion that our Customs are permanently on the decline; and the *Morning Post* informs its readers that the financial situation of the country is "gloomy," and goes on to say that "any clear and satisfactory development of our financial system, based upon existing facts," will not be made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We incline to the hope that the *Morning Post* forms too "gloomy" an estimate of the forthcoming budget, and that as Mr. Baring has now Necessity for his schoolmistress, he will not turn aside from the lessons of wisdom she can teach him; that he will not neglect the true uses of a falling revenue.

Certain it is that the House of Commons and the landed aristocracy which fills it, may neither be sufficiently informed to understand them, nor virtuous enough, if they did, to act upon them: but the people, if Mr. Baring will do his duty, have been sufficiently ground down by unjust and selfish taxation to appreciate his difficulties and sustain him in his conflict with interested prejudice and short-sighted selfishness, if he will but be bold enough to recast and distribute fairly, the burdens of taxation. He may remove the pressure upon our trade, and our customs will decline no longer. He may lighten the weight of taxation and allay every unreasonable murmur against it. He may render trade more profitable and more productive of benefits and blessings to every class of the community.

There is but one rule to adopt, and once adopted, resolutely to follow. *Abolish every protective duty strictly such, and impose duties only for the purposes of revenue.* Protective duties are taxes for private advantage. Revenue duties are necessary taxes for public and national objects.

"The duties upon the importation of foreign raw materials," says Dean Tucker again, as long ago as 1787, "to be employed in our own manufactures, are as many fetters and chains to prevent the progress of labour and the circulation of wealth. These imposts were first laid on under a notion of promoting the landed interest; but happy would it have been for these kingdoms if the landed gentlemen had understood their interest before they attempted to show their zeal in promoting it!"

We incline to the hope, then, that Mr. Baring will turn his adversities to account; that he will fix his eyes steadily upon the interests of the people, and disdain to heed the merely temporary interests of party.



## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Panadelphian." We cannot judge of the propriety of giving insertion to the letter transmitted to us until we have seen the reply to it, with the writer's name and address.

The communication of Charles Brooker, for which we are under obligation, is by far too voluminous for a weekly paper. We are therefore compelled to decline and return it.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

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**The Nonconformist.**

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1841.

PERHAPS at no other time could an organ, reporting upon public interests and events, have commenced its career amidst more multiplied sources of public discontent. All the parts of the political system appear to be in an unnatural state of dislocation, its nearest sympathies are interrupted, and the very law of attraction of cohesion might seem to be in the process of repeal. We can contemplate no aspect of the social body without discovering the sources of schism. The existence of a teeming people daily increasing in those arts and that knowledge which add the powers to the right of investigation, and growingly conscious of rights locked up from them in the fastnesses of the constitution, and the existence amidst such a body of an insulated aristocracy, monopolising by fiction and convention the rights bestowed on all by God and nature; here, to go no further, is the perennial spring of the waters of bitterness.

Radiating from this central source every disinterested observer may trace a multitude of incalculable wrongs. The right of every man to a voice in that legislation which arbitrarily deals with his property, his liberty, and his life, is written in characters which not only reason but instinct itself may read; yet, of the adult population of this empire, a scanty minority have even the nominal possession of the right, and stand in the position of unauthorised trustees for the rest. Of these the larger proportion possess nothing of political freedom but the responsibility and the name; while the unrepresented are treated as idiots, their enfranchised brethren are managed as slaves. Nor is that servitude a whit the less degrading because their fetters are of gold, and their masters tricked out in the ornaments of a conventional nobility.

The origin of the wrong, then, appears to be political; its results come more closely home to the business and the bosoms of all. A system of laws enacted by the privileged few, and for their exclusive benefit, locks up from the many the treasury of universal sustenance. To maintain the illegitimate wealth of the aristocracy, the people are compelled to obtain the necessaries of life at the dearest market, because that is the only market which is patent and licensed; or, failing so to obtain them, are thrown upon a system of national charity (if we may so take the name of charity in vain), and learn in that school at least one bitter lesson, that "the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." From the commercial interests of the community this radiation of wrong strikes into the more sacred territory of their religion: here too we find the plague-spot of a privileged class. Where we have not hereditary possession of sacred office, we have as its substitute hereditary appointment. A privileged class suns itself in the beams of majesty, and glows under the reflected splendours of courts, while naked and defenceless piety freezes under the blast of "the proud man's contumely," and keeps alive its flame only in the essential element of vital heat implanted by the source of all knowledge and virtue. Under the heads of the church as under the Cæsars of the world, "*virtus laudatur et alget*."

Persecution was once the child of arbitrary power, and now of civil and organized law. The result is the same; and if the soul cannot be cramped with chains, the living voice at least is smothered amidst the honourable solitudes of a dungeon. Nor do the mischiefs of aristocratic privilege stop here. The very fountains of civil law are tainted by it; and even in these days of boasted illumination and liberty, it is a fact at which we may blush, but from the statement of which we must not, and we will not flinch, that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. Aristocratic outrage finds its courteous apology and its offer of compromise from the highest seats of judicature, while the rude but slighter transgressions of the vulgar are visited with the coarsest penalties, which throw the shade of barbarity upon our jurisprudence. It is vain to disguise the fact, that the administration of the law is falling into general and deserved contempt. The enormous power left to the caprice of judges, and the feebleness of the popular voice when echoed into courts—the protection of aristocratic guilt under the shield of judicial authority, and the awful yet fitful severity with which the sword of justice lights upon meaner offenders—all these are kindling public indignation to a most dangerous height.

It would be impossible to trace throughout in a single and introductory article, the mischiefs which are springing from our aristocratic institutions in church and state. We waive for the present a reference to the wrongs of Ireland and the abominations of our colonial government. Under these and far more multiplied wrongs we find our countrymen suffering. But a few years back indeed, they slept in their servitude, and did not feel the pressure of their fetters; but the turmoil of political events during the last half century has awoken them to a painful consciousness of that servitude, and the ominous

result is a wide-spread sense of dissatisfaction, and a turbulent effort for reform. Let us not suppose that the half-rebellious action which prevails among the millions of the people, is but a rash thrown out upon the surface of the social body, which will strike in again with the change of the seasons. It is rather a cancer in its vitals, nourished by a poison that pervades its blood, the source alike of suffering and contagion; which no ointment can mollify, no local applications can heal, which demands a constitutional treatment, and which only can be met by such measures as may restore health to the heart, and peace to the nerve of the empire.

Whence then are we to look for this kind and genial remedy? It would be absurd to rest our hopes upon those, who draw their very sustenance from the popular disease. As little can we expect the remedy from those, whose professions are for the people, but whose sympathies are with the aristocracy. Those who suffer the wrong and sigh for the remedy, must rest their confidence on principles, and not on men. For those principles, they must unite, and for those principles they must agitate. Minor differences must be merged and forgotten, and an undaunted spirit guided by a wise discretion, must finish the conflict that thickens every day, of right against might, and of reason and liberty against prescription and prerogative.

## THE SILENT PEOPLE.

Full of instruction—big with lessons of deep and solemn meaning is the silence, the inaction of the British people. 'Tis little understood. The summer day politicians who buzz away their brief period of power in court sunshine, the ephemeral surface skimmers, sing in our ears of reaction in the public mind, as though the convictions of men were settling down on old foundations, and Time, the great conductor, had reversed the engine of human affairs, and were driving us back in haste to torism. Reaction they call it! Yes! if to unthink the thoughts which bred confidence in our seemingly renovated institutions—if to learn by hard experience that the Reform Bill was a great political falsehood, serving only to

—“palter with us in a double sense,  
And keep the word of promise to our ear  
But break it to our hope.”

—if this be reaction, it has set in like a spring tide.

The secret of this silence which most misname apathy, is, not that the people are going back, but that they have far—very far, outstripped their rulers, and present forms of government. The whole system is, to their judgment, a pretence, a solemn show, unreal, empty, delusive. What should they clamour for? Why should they busy themselves? To work out what good thing will their activity tend? Public energy at the present moment would bespeak them a little gullible people, which they are not. Before zeal there must be hope, there must be faith. Men can only be in earnest when they think they are doing something, working out some important reality. But if all the instruments with which they fondly dreamed they might shape out an actualization of their thoughts and purposes, are found to be worthless, notched, brittle, more likely to wound the hand of him that uses them than to carve out his design, what then? are they foolish enough to work, work everlastingly, to no good end? Far otherwise. They just give over chiselling, caring nothing at present of what may become of their first awkward attempt, and quietly let it be till they have found better tools.

Full of instruction is this deathlike silence, if our rulers would but mark it; to our minds nothing more ominous. It would be difficult to anger the people just now, for anger presupposes some hope defeated, some wrong done which we look not for. But the country is without a hope to defeat, and all wrongs come in the common course of expectation. Scepticism as to public political morality is universal. Listlessly the nation looks on whilst the two great parties fight out their fight, not caring which shall prove strongest, as not believing that they have the smallest concern in the issue.

We may take now, as an illustration, the "Cardigan affair," a sorry business. A farce it was generally called; there was too grave a moral in it, we think, to justify that title. No lack of pomp in the proceedings to awaken reverence. Ermine and gold coronets, white wands and official robes, solemn attitudes and high sounding phrases did their best. But the effect produced was just that which the tiger skins and besmirched faces of Chinese warriors would produce upon British tars and soldiers—an inward quiet smile of contempt. This pasteboard pomp and gilded dignity might do very well in former days, when people subdued by their own fears looked with awe upon aristocratic rank, glancing at it only from afar. But since, by accident at first, afterwards not seldom of set purpose, they have come nigh to this semblance of power, and tapped it with their knuckles and found it hollow—how could they esteem it but as a thing of naught, an object to be gazed at and forgotten? No! not forgotten! Silent as were the people upon that affair, calmly as they looked at it, the matter is noted down in their memory, and will be recurred to when the time shall be judged to have arrived for setting aside old and withered forms for tangible realities. The silence of the people betokens neither acquiescence nor indifference.

Or to come to a case more vividly illustrative of what we mean. Is there no lesson to be learnt from the coldness, not to say, contempt, with which all classes but the interested ones, have come to regard the House of Commons? Once, to touch the privileges of that House, was to touch the apple of the nation's eye. Little are they cared for now a days! and the proceedings of that body whose voice should be the collective voice of the British people—how do



men regard them? with acquiescence? quite the reverse; with anger then? No! not with anger—they have got beyond that. They look on in silence, hoping nothing, trusting nothing. New taxes may be laid on, beneath the burden of which the country already staggering, will sink exhausted, yet scarce a remonstrance is heard. Laws that pretty literally "eat up the poor;" laws that first put a narrow circle around men's industry forbidding them to seek subsistence beyond it, and that afterwards deal with poverty more terribly than with crime, may be passed, amended, rendered more stringent. Still there is no outcry. Elections may be carried by notorious bribery and cruel intimidation, and election committees sworn to try fairly the merits of them, may bargain their decisions for the convenience of party. No one appears to care. Men do nothing more than exchange glances when they meet. A contemptuous smile is the most that escapes them.

Well! where is this to end? Is this people like to be ever silent, sullenly inactive? They know little of human nature who believe it. Instinctively, the people know that night must have a morning—that through some break in the clouds, some favourable juncture of events; hope,—bright hope, will again shine into their bosoms—that some truth-loving earnest man will arise to deserve their confidence, and lead them forward. They wait in silence now, but whenever they catch a glimpse of the truth, and the man they now sigh for in vain, they will start up with a shout that will ring through all the hollows of the constitution, and shake down into the dust, too likely not without some violence, all that is unsound and unsightly in church and state. Will our ministers and representatives never see till too late—that a silent people is not unnecessarily a consenting people, or an indifferent people—that often when most quiet, they only BIDE THEIR TIME?

#### THE CHINESE EXPEDITION.

THE accounts recently received from China have been the subject of eager dispute between the ministerial and the tory journals. The former exult in the success of British arms, and point to it as a triumphant justification of the war; the latter strenuously labour to depreciate the advantages acquired, and affect to hold them at a cheap rate. We imagine that any estimate of the value of our gain, at least as far as can be gathered from the preliminaries agreed upon, must be regarded as conjectural. Time alone will prove its approximation to, or distance from, truth. But we protest, with all possible emphasis, against the practice of warping men's judgments by such appeals to the result. Brilliant exploits too often gild the most unjustifiable undertakings.

There are two points of view in which the war with China may be looked at—a commercial, and a moral one. If the extension of our trade—if enriching our merchants—finding outlets for our manufactures—and markets for our colonial produce, are objects to be secured at any risk, by all available means, and at the expense of every principle of justice, doubtless a good case is made out in support of the Chinese expedition, "Money has been lost, no matter how, and must be recovered—avenues to wealth have been blocked up, and must be re-opened," is an argument which we can well understand. But then it is a mere pocket argument—an argument scarcely becoming reasonable, much less Christian men; the plea of mere selfish might—one that we should be the first to decry were it turned against ourselves.

Moral justification of this war we can find none. No thanks to us if out of evil comes a great and unexpected good. The opening of China may possibly result from this expedition. Through the fissure made by our arms, European civilization may, perhaps, flow in upon that vast and hitherto isolated empire, and a religion that will elevate and refine them may gain access to the teeming myriads of its inhabitants; but all this does not alter the character of our undertaking. Whether this may be properly designated an *opium* war, or not, little doubt can be entertained that the seizure of the contraband article by the Chinese, and the consequent loss of 2,500,000*l.* to our merchants, went far to shape the ultimate decision of ministers. We are now stipulating for an indemnity. We show no disposition to put an end to the abominable traffic; we already talk of legalising the trade. To pretend, therefore, that the war has nothing to do with this question, is only an attempt—and a very preposterous attempt, at self-delusion. Other causes may have existed—doubtless did exist—but the confiscated 2,500,000*l.* gave them a weight not intrinsically their own. The reproach of a war began in injustice cannot be wiped off by success.

**FINSBURY.**—DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE. LETTERS, &c. OF MR. W. TOOKE, 1841. Such is the endorsement of a circular, containing a reprint of this gentleman's letters to Samuel Mills, Esqr., *The Morning Herald*, *The Britannia*, &c. The knowledge they will promote, although *useful* in its way, is far from entertaining. We doubt whether even the electors of Finsbury will be deeply interested in them. Mr. Tooke should know that the liveliest efforts to establish his own character by clapping his own performances, and groaning at those of his political opponents, must in the nature of things be very dull and very unsuccessful. We should not have adverted to the effusions of this gentleman, but for the opportunity it affords us, of in-treating him to content himself with the *religious* professions he has already too amply made, and assure himself, that no repetitions of them, however frequent, can add to the effect of those already given to the world. Piety should be unobtrusive.

**NEW POOR LAW.**—The depositions of the witnesses examined before the magistrates at Rochester, against Miles, the master of the Hoo Union workhouse, who, it will be remembered, was charged with various acts of cruelty to the children under the care of the

matron, were, as required, duly forwarded to the marquis of Normanby. The receipt of them was formally acknowledged by a letter from the noble secretary, but he has suffered the assizes to go by without giving directions to any one to move in the case. Miles still remains in the establishment at Hoo, as before. It was reported that he had been dismissed by the Poor Law Commissioners, and certainly as far as papers, signatures, and seals go, he was so, but no further. Thus is public decency outraged, and public justice mocked at and defied, by the despotic rulers over England's poor. The effect of the retention of such a person in his situation is to terrify the helpless creatures under his control, and to stifle all further complaint and inquiry.

#### THE REVENUE.

Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of Great Britain, in the Years and Quarters ended 5th April, 1840 and 1841, showing the Increase or Decrease thereof.

	YEARS ENDED APRIL 5th			
	1840.	1841.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs .....	20,001,267	19,700,225	....	301,042
Excise .....	12,040,737	12,530,036	489,299	....
Stamps .....	6,592,396	6,755,118	162,722	....
Taxes .....	3,714,412	3,989,431	275,019	....
Post-office .....	1,247,000	414,000	....	833,000
Crown Lands .....	160,000	160,000	....	....
Miscellaneous .....	88,245	90,062	1,817	....
Total Ordinary Revenue	43,844,057	43,638,872	205,185	1,134,042
Imprest and other Monies ..	416,956	445,576	28,620	....
Repayments of Advances for Public Works .....	724,153	591,438	....	132,715
Total Income .....	44,985,166	44,675,886	309,280	....
Deduct Increase .....	....	....	....	957,477
Decrease on the Year .....	....	....	....	309,280

	QUARTERS ENDED APRIL 5th			
	1840.	1841.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs .....	4,572,623	4,518,508	....	54,115
Excise .....	1,929,996	1,885,470	....	44,526
Stamps .....	1,658,188	1,677,404	19,216	....
Taxes .....	179,058	222,045	42,987	....
Post-office .....	120,000	93,000	....	27,000
Crown Lands .....	40,000	32,500	....	7,500
Miscellaneous .....	37,180	49,126	11,946	....
Total Ordinary Revenue	8,537,045	8,478,053	74,149	183,141
Imprest and other Monies ..	31,913	32,151	238	....
Repayments of Advances for Public Works .....	110,756	98,996	....	11,760
Total Income .....	8,679,714	8,609,200	74,387	144,901
Deduct Increase .....	....	....	....	74,387
Decrease on the Quarter .....	....	....	....	70,514

Income and Charge on the Consolidated Fund, in the Quarters ended 5th April 1840, and 1841.

	QUARTERS ENDED 5th APRIL	
	1840.	1841.
	£	£
Customs .....	3,839,464	3,527,826
Excise .....	1,950,212	1,905,048
Stamps .....	1,658,188	1,677,404
Taxes .....	179,058	222,045
Post-office .....	120,000	93,000
Crown Lands .....	40,000	32,500
Miscellaneous .....	37,180	49,126
Imprest and other Monies ..	31,913	32,151
Repayment of Advances .....	110,756	98,996
	7,966,771	7,638,096
To Cash brought to this Account to be applied to pay off Deficiency Bills .....	230,000	220,000
	8,196,771	7,858,096
	QUARTERS ENDED 5th APRIL	
	1840.	1841.
	£	£
Permanent Debt .....	3,541,638	3,537,130
Terminable Annuities .....	1,395,532	1,351,551
Interest on Exchequer Bills issued to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund .....	22,960	23,847
Sinking Fund .....	96,801	97,047
Civil List .....	330,174	337,592
Other Charges on the Consolidated Fund .....	279,850	282,050
For Advances and to pay off Exchequer Bills issued for Advances .....	5,666,955	5,629,217
Total Charge .....	2,529,816	2,228,879
Surplus .....	8,196,771	7,858,096
Amount of Exchequer Bills issued to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund for the Quarter ended 5th Jan. 1841, and paid off out of the growing Produce of that Fund for the Quarter ended .....	....	6,210,363
Amount issued in the Quarter ended 5th April 1841, in part of the Sums granted by Parliament out of the Consolidated Fund, for Supply Services .....	936,249	....
The Surplus of the Consolidated Fund, Quarter ended 5th April 1841 .....	2,228,879	1,292,630
The probable Amount of Exchequer Bills required to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund, Quarter ended 5th April 1841 .....	....	4,917,733



## MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

## ASSIZES.

At the Liverpool assizes last week, John Hulme and John Williams took their trial for the murder of Benjamin Cooper, who was shot at Ashton in December last, whilst at work in a saw-pit. The occurrence, which caused great excitement at the time, took place during a "turn out" of the sawyers. The only evidence against the prisoners was that of their fellow-workmen who had joined them in the "strike;" and being inconclusive, the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

At the same assizes, John Frances, Henry Stevenson, and Henry Mitchell, part of a gang of desperate housebreakers, were indicted for stealing property from numerous dwelling houses in Liverpool, and for assaulting and wounding the policemen in the discharge of their duty. The wife of Mitchell was also charged with receiving the goods, knowing them to be stolen. The three male prisoners were found guilty; Stevens and Mitchell were sentenced to transportation for life, and Frances for fifteen years. It appeared from the evidence that the gang had carried on a very extensive and systematic business in house-breaking for some time. The police found a house in Laurel-street completely filled with immense quantities of stolen goods of every description; and in one room the floor was covered with crows, jemmies, skeleton keys, and other instruments used in housebreaking. It was on visiting this house, that the police were assaulted by Mitchell and Stevenson, and one of them was severely wounded.

At Chester assizes last week, Bartholomew Murray took his trial for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Cook, an aged couple residing near Knutsford, in Cheshire, in August last. The prisoner, who is only eighteen, was haymaking near the town, and, as it appeared in evidence, had been making very minute inquiries respecting the property of the deceased. The murders were perpetrated with an axe; and the servant girl on awaking beheld the murderer, with the same weapon uplifted, standing over her, prepared to strike if she awoke. She had the presence of mind to feign sleep, and thus saved her life. Murray's detection was rather singular. He left in the house two torn pieces of paper, which were proved to be parts of a written character he had shown to several persons before the murders. It was also shown that he had spent a large sum of money immediately after, which corresponded in amount with that taken from Mr. Cook. The jury found him "Guilty," and sentence of death was pronounced.

The ex-mayor of Stafford, Mr. Thomas Stevenson, was held to bail a few days since, on a charge of forging his nephew's acceptance. The nephew, Mr. W. Wynn, had been in the habit of accepting accommodation bills for his uncle.

On Thursday last, at the Norfolk assizes, a young woman was placed at the bar, charged with the wilful murder of Lavinia Kerrison, a child of thirteen months old. The prisoner, who gave her name to be Charlotte Yaxley, *alias* Middleton, appeared to be in a fainting condition, and was accommodated with a chair, on which she sat to the end of the trial, which lasted from the morning until half-past eight at night—the peculiar circumstances of this case having excited general interest, the court was greatly crowded. Mr. Palmer conducted the prosecution; Mr. Sydney Taylor defended the prisoner.

It appears that the infant was the illegitimate child of the prisoner's husband—but the motive which prompted her to the dreadful act could not be fathomed—it was committed when the prisoner was in a state of intoxication; and, if her own statement may be relied upon, originated on account of having with her husband "a great many words about the child, and that her husband had beaten her, and that if she stuffed it, it would be seen that she was black and blue." When asked where she drowned the child? she said in the duck pond before the door. The jury returned a verdict of "Guilty." The learned judge, under all the circumstances of the peculiar case, felt authorised in passing the sentence of transportation for life.

The following, from a letter of a correspondent, will be read with interest:—

"The bishop of Exeter, the most sectarian and intolerant of episcopalian prelates, in attacking from his place in the House of Lords, the St. Sulpician seminary in Canada, said, that the Roman priests were paid much better than the church of England parsons. This statement "out herods Herod," and "out bangs Bannagher!" What is the real truth of the matter, and where is the veracity of the political bishop? The truth of the matter I shall soon show, but, alas! the bishop's veracity is not to be found! it evaporates before he takes his seat in parliament. The truth is that an English episcopalian archbishop of Canterbury gets nearly £14,000 *per annum*, more than an ecclesiastical dignitary of the same rank gets in the French Romanist church, and other members of the two hierarchies differ in a similar ratio. This, the following authentic table will show. It exhibits a statistical account of the comparative cost of the high dignities of the papalist and episcopalian churches in France and England. The sums annexed to their titles are *per annum*:—

French Papism.	English Bishopism.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cardinal Archbishop of France 25,000 francs, or ..... 1,041 13 4	Archbp. of Canterbury 15,000
French Cath. Archbp. 15,000 francs, or .. 625	Archbishop of York .. 10,000
French Cath. Bishop 10,000 francs, or .. 416 13 4	Church of England Bishop ..... 5,000
£ 2, 083, 6 8	£30,000

Mr. Mathew has returned from his labours in the north; and it will be seen by the following return of the numbers enrolled under the banners of temperance, how wonderful has been his success:—At Carrickmacross there were enrolled, 80,000; Monaghan 40,000; Kilbeggan, 80,000; Turbatstown, 70,000; Trim, 60,000; Athboy (while changing horses,) 2,000.

A number of quarry-men, who had been employed at Bullock, six miles from Dublin, have been taken off to Paris to work upon the fortifications.

Mr. David Bell, of Glasgow, has addressed the electors of the Kilmarnock district of burghs, announcing his intention to oppose the present member, Mr. Colquhoun, whenever an election takes place; in his address to the electors, Mr. Bell thus declares his principles:—"I am friendly to an extension of the suffrage, to the ballot, and to shortening the duration of parliaments to three years. I am also in favour of a free trade in grain, of the principles of free trade generally, and of a moderate duty only being imposed on all articles of import, as essential to the prosperity of commerce and to the general well-being of the community."

EMIGRATION.—It appears from the first report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the condition of the population of the islands and highlands of Scotland, and into the practicability of affording the people relief by means of emigration, &c., that one of the most efficient remedies to alleviate the existing evils is, according to the opinion of the committee, a well-arranged system of emigration, in order to relieve the present state of destitution, and as preparatory to any measure calculated to prevent a recurrence of similar distress. The above committee consists of Mr. H. J. Baillie, Mr. R. Stewart, Mr. E. Ellice, Mr. J. Mackenzie, Mr. C. Bruce, Mr. W. Mackenzie, Mr. Ewart, Mr. Protheroe, Mr. Tufnell, Lord Teignmouth, Mr. Robert Pigot, Mr. Colquhoun, Mr. Ward, Mr. W. S. O'Brien, and Mr. Dunbar. The minutes of evidence published by the committee are exceedingly voluminous.

We find by a return moved for by the Right Hon. F. Shaw, M.P., that in 1840 the number of notices of intention to register served in Cork county was 12,894, and the number admitted 1,071. In the county of Carlow, the number of notices served was 3,689, and the number registered 760. In Longford, the said numbers were respectively 833 and 156; in Tipperary, 4,805 and 692; in Dublin city, 22,311 and 1,953; and in Cork city, 4,191 and 1,220.

At the Newcastle and Rathkeale quarter sessions the numbers registered were:—Liberals, 18; Tories, 0.

A contest is threatened at Antrim. The two candidates are Mr. M'Donnell, of Glenarm Castle, and Mr. Nathaniel Alexander, of Portglenone. The *Mail* supports the former—the *Packet* the latter. We copy the following from a Belfast paper:—"We understand that the majority of the leading interests in the county have signified their intention of supporting Mr. M'Donnell. Amongst them are the Hertford, Pakenham, Mountcashel, Dungannon, Ferrard, and Macnaughten families. Mr. M'Donnell arrived this morning in Belfast, by the *Falcon* steamer, from Liverpool, and has commenced his canvass.—*Ulster Times*."

A subsequent account states that the Orange party, who back Mr. Alexander, have succeeded in forcing Mr. M'Donnell, the Peel-Wellington candidate, to retire from the contest. Yesterday a communication reached Belfast, announcing that the Marquess of Hertford (the largest proprietor in the county), had withdrawn his support from Mr. M'Donnell, upon which that gentleman forthwith resigned his pretensions. Mr. Alexander will now have a walk over. The high-sheriff, Mr. Conway Dobbs, has fixed Wednesday, the 14th instant, for the election.

The friends of independence in this county will be happy to hear that the cause of reform has received a most important accession in the person of Mr. Annesley—a gentleman of most enlightened and comprehensive understanding. He has sent orders to his agent to register all his liberal tenantry in the reform interest, which will add upwards of one hundred votes to the already preponderating scale in behalf of justice and old Ireland in this noble and independent county.—*Wexford Independent*.

The Glasgow town-council have followed the example of their brethren in Edinburgh by returning a member to the General Assembly known to be hostile to the principles and policy of the non-intrusion party. It appears that there are eight elders in the Glasgow council, but that they are all non-intrusionists. Mr. Ranken, who is not a member of council, was therefore brought forward on the moderate side; and the senior bailie, who is a non-intrusionist, but not very extreme in his views, was proposed by the high church party, the Lord Provost, Campbell, not being an elder. On a division sixteen voted for Mr. Ranken and only fifteen for the non-intrusion bailie. Thus the two largest cities in Scotland have unequivocally expressed their approbation of the supporters of law and order in the church, and their hostility to the conduct of the Non-intrusion party—the clerical chartists—whose principles and proceedings, in resisting the law of the land as declared by the supreme courts, are subversive of the foundations of civil society.—*Scotsman*.

At the close of last year an agent of the Belgian Post-office visited this country for the purpose of investigating the working of the penny postage plan. A report of this examination has been submitted to the Belgian Government, accompanied with recommendations for the improvement of the Belgian Post-office. The principal features of the changes recommended are the adoption of a uniform rate of 2d. (twenty centimes) on all inland letters, except those which already cost but a 1d.; optional pre-payment by means of stamps; an increased allowance of weight, and proportionate reduced charges in the transmission of packets by the post. This subject is also exciting a lively interest in France. If a uniform system be adopted in Belgium and France, there can be little doubt it will become general throughout Europe.

The Hon. admiral Elliot is expected to arrive from India by the next overland mail.

Upwards of 51,000 signatures have been obtained to the Manchester petition for the repeal of the corn and provision laws.

His constituents entertain Mr. Brotherton, M.P., to a public dinner at Salford on Wednesday next.

A clause has been inserted in the Liverpool docks' bill, exempting from dock dues all vessels passing by the docks without using them. This was obtained chiefly through the instrumentality of Mr. Mark Phillips, M.P. for Manchester.

We understand that on Thursday next, 400 gentlemen who resisted the church rate, at St. Ives will dine together to celebrate their triumph. In the parish of Headcorn the churchwardens and all the parishioners have been cited to appear in the Consistory court, to show cause why they should not meet and make a church rate.



## LITERATURE.

*On Heroes, Hero-worship, and the Heroic in History: Six Lectures, reported, with Emendations and Additions.* By THOMAS CARLYLE. London: Fraser, 1841.

IN his petition to parliament in support of Mr. Serjeant Talfourd's Copyright Bill, Mr. Carlyle quaintly styles himself "a writer of books." Such he certainly is; but such books as his, for the aim, force, and style, have not been noted down amongst the productions of this generation or century, at least in our own country.

The books, to use John Bunyan's phrase, have only begun "to walk the town." He has duly served his apprenticeship, by spontaneous or necessitated efforts, according to the lot or custom of literature. Up to the last year or two, although his *chef d'œuvres* had long been given to the world, his name was comparatively unknown, or confounded with that of a wretched charlatan. They will never carry the circulating library stamp, but many of our public libraries are yet without them. To a few in England, and to a more numerous, if not more important, circle, in America, his name has long been known, and sure we are, it would be cherished wherever known.

But the tide of reputation has set in, and it will know of no ebb, for many a day to come. He has bided his time very contentedly; and now in all quarters, and by all parties, the said books are referred to, glanced at, commented on, criticised, and even burlesqued by mimics. They are recognized as part and parcel of the most powerful literary elements of the age. The feeling on our own minds is, that these books will live as long as anything which the last hundred years have seen.

Two or three courses of lectures have undoubtedly helped to circulate the writings of this gifted individual; but we are much mistaken if the first real impulse of popularization be not distinctly traceable to American appreciation and American enterprise. While John Bull was admiring other things, Brother Jonathan had mastered this author's "*Sartor Resartus*" and "*French Revolution*." So great was the interest about him, that an American firm collected his "Critical and Miscellaneous Essays" in 4 vols., and they consigned several hundred copies, not to a piratical correspondent, but to the author himself. They were speedily published; and to the rapid circulation of these charming volumes, containing his principal contributions to our leading periodicals, for the last twelve years, we attribute the present demand for new editions of all his works, including the *Miscellanies* themselves, which are now reprinted with the addition of a fifth volume. All honour is due to the American firm, and the American public. But enough of this. They are enduring works,—and the moral, philosophical, and religious "public," will do well to give good heed to them.

These Six Lectures are the latest, and by no means the least valuable portion of them. They were delivered last May, at a West-end library, to crowded and fashionable companies. Long rows of brilliant equipages thronged the adjoining street from end to end, as at a monarch's levee. It was a rare, rich spectacle—a compliment, or rather a triumph for the plain, simple Scottish writer, who merely talked, ex-temporised the contents of this book, with no small difficulty and nervous hesitation—and a genuine tribute, a piece of homage from some of the highest in rank and literature, to living genius and worth, who gathered out of the hum and din of busy, gay London, to hear these matchless discourses "on Great Men." Many things were there said which must have startled some of its fair aristocratic hearers—many which his hearers of both sexes, especially his literary and philosophical hearers, will never forget—many, perhaps, which some will never forgive.

But here they are, "reported, with emendations and additions," and a most readable, delightful, eloquent book it is. Once opened, it is difficult to lay down—impossible to forget. There will not be found much that is new to any one acquainted with Mr. Carlyle's previous publications—but such a reader will be pleased to see the last illustrations of characteristic principles by the hand of the master. To the uninitiated student, the careful perusal of this brief exposition of the "Heroic in History" will be a memorable circumstance—nor will he long rest satisfied until he has possessed himself of the still more remarkable predecessors of this remarkable book.

An original man has always his own way, good or bad, of saying what he has to say. We must just take him as we find him. Correction and instruction are equally lost on such a person, when administered by any one but himself. Most vain is it, therefore, to complain of peculiarities and oddities, either in accidentals or essentials, either in words or things. Our sole business with the gifted individual is to hear what he has to communicate, and to adopt or renounce, approve or condemn, accordingly. None will deny the need there is of keeping a sharp look out on such a character. Such is the world's admiration of originality, of whatever kind or in whatever guise! Let us look at these Lectures in the spirit of these remarks. From the largeness of the topics and the smallness of our space, this notice must necessarily be brief.

We have here Six discourses on Great Men—"their manner of appearance in the world's business, how they shaped themselves in the world's history, what ideas were formed of them, what work they did:"—Lectures on Heroes, in short, "on their reception and performance; what he calls Hero-worship and the Heroic in human affairs."

We are first led to look at the Hero as Divinity, the oldest primary form of Heroism. He chooses as the first hero of his series, Odin, "the central figure of Scandinavian Paganism." Abandoning the quack-theory and the allegory one, and "listening with affectionate attention to the far-off rumour of the Pagan ages," he tries if he

cannot ascertain so much as this at least, "That there was a kind of fact at the heart of them; that they, too, were not mendacious and distracted, but in their own poor way true and sane."

He advances in the second lecture from the first rude times of Paganism among the Scandinavians of the north, to a different epoch of religion, among a very different people: Mahometanism among the Arabs. "The hero is not now as a god among his fellow men, but as one God-inspired, as a prophet." Mahomet is chosen, not as the most eminent prophet, but as the one he is freest to speak of. He esteems him to be a true prophet, and means to say, and does say, all the good of him he justly can. "It is the way to get at his secret: let us try to understand what he meant with the world; what the world meant and means with him, will then be a more answerable question." He dismisses the current hypothesis about Mahomet, "that he was a scheming imposter, a falsehood incarnate, that his religion is a mere mass of quackery and fatuity," as a most untenable one. "Of a great man, especially of him, I will venture to assert that it is incredible he should have been other than true. It seems to me the primary foundation of him, and of all that can lie in him, this. No Mirabeau, Napoleon, Burns, Cromwell, no man adequate to do anything, but is first of all in right earnest about it; what I call a sincere man. I shall say *sincerity*, a deep, great, genuine sincerity, is the first characteristic of all men in any way heroic. Not the sincerity that calls itself sincere; ah no, that is a very poor matter indeed—a shallow, braggart, conscious sincerity, oftenest self-conceit merely. The great man's sincerity is of the kind he cannot speak of, is not conscious of: nay, I suppose, he is conscious rather of *insincerity*; for what man can walk accurately by the law of truth for one day? No, the great man does not boast himself sincere, far from that; perhaps does not ask himself if he is so: I would say rather, his sincerity does not depend upon him only; he cannot help being sincere."—"I wish you to take this as my definition of a great man. A little man may have this, it is competent to all men that God has made: but a great man cannot be without it." He considers Mahomet, then, as no inanity, nor theatricality, or poor, ambitious schemer: "we cannot conceive him so. The rude message he delivered was a real one withal; an earnest, confused voice from the unknown deep. The man's words were not false, nor his workings here below: no inanity and simulacrum, a fiery mass of life cast up from the great bosom of Nature herself. To *kindle* the world; the world's maker had ordered it so. Neither can the faults, imperfections, insincerities, even of Mahomet, if such were never so well proved against him, shake the primary fact about him."

Having dispatched samples of the Hero as Divinity and the Hero as Prophet, which are the productions of old ages, "we are now to see our Hero in the less ambitious, but also less questionable character of Poet"—"a heroic figure belonging to all ages; whom all ages possess when once he is produced, whom the newest age as the oldest may produce, and will produce, always when nature pleases. Let nature send a hero-soul; and in no age is it other than possible that he may be shaped into a poet." We are then introduced to Dante and Shakespeare. In the compass of English literature there is no finer, truer, deeper, more exhilarating chapter than this.

In the fourth lecture he discourses on the great man as Priest, and selects Luther and Knox as priests, though he considers them chiefly in their historical character, rather as reformers than priests. Nothing can be imagined more noble, more instinct with life and glorious reality, than his magnificent development of the *Heroic* in the history of these two men. The spirit of their age and the essence of these immortal men's lives are most exquisitely given. It is as fine a piece of historical-biographical painting as we know of. Once accustomed to the style, all the blazonry of his eloquence subsides into a pure, steady, flowing, white light. After discoursing in this marvellous and often hazardous, questionable manner, of hero-gods, prophets, poets, priests—"forms of heroism that belong to the old ages, making their appearance in the remotest times," he comes in the sixth lecture to speak of the hero as *man of letters* who is "altogether a product of these new ages," and likely "to continue as one of the main forms of heroism for all future ages." With his deep humour, he says of this class of the heroic, "he is, in various respects, a very singular phenomenon." It is a most significant and instructive glance into the mental and moral condition of our own times. Cheerful, trenchant, and with such portraits of Johnson, Rousseau, Burns, and their age, as none but he could draw; or as might have been expected from the most adventurous and successful analyst of character.

The last form of heroism is kingship. This is the crowning discourse. "Cromwell, Napoleon, modern revolutionism," are his exemplars and his themes. These subjects are treated after the same gorgeous fashion as the others; an investment of the richest philosophy, with the clearest outline and exposition of all genuine realities. He makes Napoleon second to Cromwell. "Napoleon does by no means seem to me so great a man as Cromwell." This is a tingling confession for many, for most: we quite agree in the opinion. Our hero is beginning to be understood, but we cannot admit that Carlyle was the first expositor of his kingship. Mr. Robertson's "*Cromwell*," a prior publication by a year and a half, will rank with his, in the eyes of all that understand the Puritan hero.

There is a word for every one in this book. We wish we could present a few of the gems of poesy and philosophy with which it abounds. In every discourse there is a fund of high, noble thinking—there is no small amount of transcendental quackery too. But in spite of a most un-english style, and the gorgeous colouring of a false, deceitful, and impotent philosophy, the work will be per-



manently useful. We cannot afford space either for specimens, or for a connected view of the author's scheme of "man, of nature, and of human life."

So long as Mr. Carlyle holds fast by his bible he throws a flood of light on every subject which he touches. It is needless to say that he is exquisitely unintelligible where he leaves it for fabling and theories. Read by the light of revelation, or by the light of history, his idol-heroes are figments. His myth-system is a poor affair. Milton's list of devils is a far deeper and truer story; nay, his juvenile hymn "on the nativity" is a more genuine piece of poetry and philosophy. Like all other mortal men, he is safe and useful only in the illumination of the holy book, which from his childhood he has been taught to reverence, and still reverences. But when a man meddles, as a teacher, with the ways of God and the soul's salvation, there should be a more direct and unequivocal reference to the sacred oracles. If the bible be divine, it must be exclusively and ultimately authoritative; and the worst of it with *philosophes* is, that while they are very reverential to what we exclusively denominate "revelation"—every conceit of their own is tantamount to revelation—and with a jargon about Nature, Time, Eternity, Love, Beauty, Terror, Strength, and a host of abstractions typed off with capital letters, like proper names, they very complacently make up just as good a revelation as any other, come whence it may. For all scientific guidance through life these theories of the world might as well be appended to Washington Irving's chapter in *Knickerbocker*, where it is demonstratively shown that the making and managing of a world, is not so difficult a matter as hath been imagined.

Mr. Carlyle is a poet, and a true one, albeit without garland and harp: and so long as he works in his own element he is a most genuine and instructive writer. But he has betaken himself to these German schools, with no very profound stock of scholarship. As some one said of the interpretation of prophecies, it either finds or leaves a man mad, so we may say that in the long run, no English intellect, and no Christian heart, can safely trust these mystical doctors. Coleridge never got the better of his opium and his Kant. But Coleridge was a metaphysician, which Mr. Carlyle is not. Moreover the wonderful poet, in his later days, always held by the book; and tried all schemes by it on the inductive principle. This German philosophy rewards its ambitious disciple with but waxen wings after all: they can sustain no flight, and bear no light. By the very terms of initiation a disciple of this school either begins or ends by discarding holy writ, and above all, by abandoning the faithful sayings of Christ and his apostles. But with all his open-souled recognition of the dread realities of his path through time does he get beyond the book? We blush to ask the question—and yet we have a man of deep insight recommending, and babbling by the hour about leaving the maker of the world to save his world, and with equal charity and emphasis leaving man to save himself. This is sad stuff for a truth-loving disciple and teacher to utter in these times, with such a book of facts and principles as the bible in his hands. What! are we to take it for a new gospel that man can work out his own salvation by the aid of a playwright? Is Paul to be superseded by Goethe, or are we to read the riddle of the universe in *Shakspeare*? Are we to canonize Luther and Knox in the pantheon of transcendental sophisters? Are we not to take the facts of man's fall and God's plan of restoration? Are we to forget that the frown of the Eternal is still on our planet and on us—that we, and all other beings here, are fallen and cursed—that we were a lost world, but for mercy—and seeing the wreck and the deluge of devastations in which it has been weltering for ages and ages, must we try to—and even while the rainbow rests on the retiring wave like an epitaph of forgiveness—while the standing signatures of God's wrath and God's love are written on the heavens and the earth—are we bound to evolve out of these creatures of a day, these heroes in six classes, with their valour and their wit, to erect a theory of the great God and his world? Are we to forsake the platform of Judea, and build us a Salvation-Babel on the plains of the German Shinar? And what is the great practical result? Why, that *men of letters* are to govern the world! The saints are not to reign, but it is to be a millenium of leading articles! We charge not all these absurdities and impieties on the respected lecturer; far from it—but there is no use in disguising the fact, that he and his school leave the world, and "the open secret of the universe," just where some poor Greek rhapsodist might have done, in the days of the altar to "the unknown God." As to man's chief end, his destiny, his duty, his sins, his sorrows, his immortal relations—in one word, his salvation, there is not a ray of guidance. Everything is pre-eminently worthy of the one hundred and ninety-ninth "flat" of the tower of Babel, if indeed this extraordinary monument of fatuity ever "told so many stories."

In spite, however, of lamentable, yawning flaws, we recommend his book, and all Mr. Carlyle's books. There are vast redeeming merits, and everything with him—even his scepticism, points the right way, and helps the right cause. He makes his reader think—he makes him feel. He is full of practical inconsistencies, and not one of the smallest is his all-manner-of-taxes-paying principle; but by insisting on realities, on sincerities, on belief, on duty, on charity, on love, on reverence, and on the purging and reforming of the heart, from vanities, conceits, self-consciousnesses, with an unparalleled force, and in a most "perennial" style, all his quasi fatalism, scepticism, Goetheism, or idolatry of his "six classes of heroes," will be absolutely counteracted. His writings are prodigiously suggestive; and such is the attraction of early and indelible sympathy, most beautifully do they bear on the highest of writings. More than the works of any other modern, if we except Coleridge, will his performances be found to tear up and test both

the mind and the heart. And for the way in which he recounts of Thor's Hammer, or Mahomet's creed, or Dante's song of belief, or *Shakspeare's* creations, or Luther's and Knox's struggles with the mystery of iniquity, or of Burns, Johnson, Rousseau; or of Cromwell's triumphant valour in the best of causes, and Napoleon's consummate strategy in the worst;—we can readily excuse all the mystic wrappings and nostrums which shroud or accompany his magnificent delineations. As we before said, we must indeed take the original man as we find him.

Nevertheless such is the legitimate sorcery, the true fascination of originality, that it behoves us to keep watch and ward, not for the vain purpose of controlling or correcting the gifted individual, but for the sake of those who may be influenced by him. For much evil or good is each man born; but truly does there rest a perilous responsibility on high intellectual endowments. Abused or perverted talent has occasioned such devastation amongst the giddy multitude, as well as the more refined and cultivated, that a good man may well tremble when he hears of a great genius having risen up amongst us, whose course is yet uncertain. Foolish men have even wished for a world of mediocrities, or a race of equalized calibre. In the instance before us it is no longer doubtful what master will be served. Extraordinary men, like Thomas Carlyle, do appear amongst us at the time when they are wanted; and it is a delightful fact that they do. It shows that the world is not drooping and decaying of old age—that the earth's soil is not yet smitten with incurable barrenness—that after all the wonders which mortal men have been the witnesses and recorders of in the gracious dealings of God for so many ages, he has not withheld from our times the most evident proofs of his loving superintendence, in the endowments which he confers on some, that his wonderful works and ways may be known, and his glorious purposes evolved by all. These gifts are so many tokens that man's career shall be onward—that he shall go on from strength to strength—that intellect shall be showered down in all manner of diversified adaptations to all stages of his mysterious journey—that these emanations from the source of all good shall mark the close as well as the course of man's sad history. Thus shall the whole spiritual universe be taught to see how needful, and yet how gracious it was, for God to grant us his word of truth, and how vain it is for his creatures, in whatever state, to read deeper lessons than He has taught—that the ark of God is set in our midst, and there is only light in the circle within which it abides; but that its radiance is ever widening and widening on the darkness without—and that whatever the direction of art or science, or the use or abuse of mental or physical power—they are all destined to prepare the way and accelerate the period, for the final outgoing of Time into Eternity. In the view of the end—believing in the power of truth, the majesty of goodness, the natural alliance between the highest gifts and the loveliest graces—let us dismiss all apprehension whatever direction intellectual power may take—and however wayward and eccentric its manifestations, let us rejoice in the genial inspiration which yet warms our planet, and remember that all things *shall* work, and *are* working, together for good.

*Epilepsy, and some Nervous Affections, its Precursors; being Twenty-two Cases successfully treated.* By JOHN EPPS, M.D.

WHOEVER has witnessed a case of epilepsy—so nearly resembling the descriptions given us of demoniacal possession—whoever has grown sick at the sight of a patient convulsed, his glaring eyes, his foaming mouth, his distorted countenance, his quivering frame—will be able to estimate at somewhat like its true worth the benefaction which that man gives to the world who discovers the latent cause and certain cure of this terrible disease. Whether such discovery has really been made by Dr. Epps we shall not take upon us to affirm. Nor is it necessary. The cases, the successful treatment of which is here with extreme brevity detailed, are the best testimony to the value of his researches. They are not pleasant reading—indeed, they are not reading at all. There is nothing whatever to catch the fancy. All that we have, besides the preface, are the most matter-of-fact professional notes of the symptoms presented by the several patients at each successive visit. They seem designed for the study of medical men, or as a glass in which epileptics may see themselves, rather than for general readers. The cases are introduced by a short preface, from which we extract the following passage:

"Very early in my professional career, my attention was directed to epilepsy. About the year 1828, I read an essay on this disease, at the Westminster Medical Society. In this essay many cases were detailed; by the facts, in connexion with which, powerful reasons were presented to justify the conclusion, that the *cerebellum* is, if not in all, at least in the majority of the cases of epilepsy, the part of the *nervous* system more particularly affected.

"The essay and the conclusions in connexion with it, excited much attention, the Westminster Medical Society occupying three nights of meeting with the discussion.

"The facts therein detailed, and the deductions drawn from these facts, have been corroborated and justified by additional information; and a most extensive experience in this disease has convinced me, that the knowledge thus obtained of the seat of the affection, has led to the adoption of means which can strip the disease of most of its distressing concomitants, and, in many cases, eradicate the disease itself. Of the truth of these statements, the cases published will be the best evidence."

The following facts gathered up from long observation of this disease, and considerable experience, are worth notice. That the source of it, in six cases out of ten, may be found in the practices of the epileptics themselves—often in ignorant attempts to remove external eruptive diseases by external applications—that it is occasionally the result of fear, and that it is frequently kept up by



spinal curvature. That, by the improved system of medicine, the constitutional condition in which epilepsy fixes its roots may be eradicated; but that, in some cases, two years may elapse during which the patient should continue under treatment, before he is justified in regarding the disease as hopeless. Bleeding, he says, has never cured epilepsy.

**Remember my Bonds.** Leicester gaol. By A. BALANCE, Esq., of the MIDDLE Temple. "They are in prison, and Christ is the keeper." Oxford Tracts. No. 90. London: Dinns.

WE have just received this pamphlet, in which an attempt is made "to hold a balance between opposite parties and opposite opinions."—that is to say, between Mr. Baines, and those who, disapproving of his course, decline to aid him. We reserve any more extended notice of it until next week—simply taking this opportunity of stating, in correction of what seems to be a misapprehension of the writer, that Mr. Baines is imprisoned, not because he refused to acknowledge the Bishop's court, but because he declined at its bidding to pay his rate and costs. Long after the whole process of Ecclesiastical law had been gone through, Mr. Baines might have avoided what he now suffers by simple payment of money. He is there, consequently, however it may be gainsayed, because he will not pay church rates. There is one other remark we deem it right to make here. Mr. Baines, as far as we are aware, never pleaded conscience as having prompted his choice of alternatives offered him by the church. He cannot in conscience pay church rates. Then comes law offering him distraint or risk of imprisonment. He chooses the latter—no matter now for what reasons. He will cope with B rather than A, both being armed with power to enforce payment, but B having power more formidable than A. To B claiming his rate, he answers what he had beforetimes done to A. "I cannot in conscience." A replied to his conscience by distraint. B answers by imprisonment. We cannot see why, because Mr. Baines puts himself in the way of the severer punishment, his conscience was thrown overboard.

#### LIST OF BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. *The Rise and Progress of Dissent in Bristol*; chiefly in relation to the Broadmead Church. By J. G. FULLER. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.
2. *Priscilla, the Helper*; a Memoir of Mrs. Rowton of Coventry. By JOHN GRIGG HEWLETT, Minister of Well-street Chapel, Coventry. London: Thomas Ward and Co.
3. *Decapolis: or the Individual Obligation of Christians to save Souls from Death.* An Essay, by DAVID EVERARD FORD. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.
4. *The Scriptural Duty of Churches in relation to Slaveholders professing Christianity.* By the Rev. F. A. COX, D.D. L.L.D. London: T. Ward and Co.
5. *The Pastor's Pledge; or Total Abstinence.* By the Rev. W. ROAF, St. Paul's Chapel, Wigan. London: New British and Foreign Temperance Society, 12, Bull's-head-court, Newgate-street.

#### RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The 29th anniversary meeting of the Southwark Auxiliary Bible Society was held yesterday at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, Henry Kemble, Esq., M. P. in the chair. The Rev. Mr. Curling read the annual report. After alluding to the great reduction in the price of the scriptures by the British and Foreign Bible Society, the report stated that the receipts in contributions were less than those of last year, when by the exertions of the committee to meet an emergency, the receipts were greater than at any previous period. The sums received since the last meeting was £1784. 19s. 9d, of which £317. 16s. 1d. had been paid into the special fund, and £1343. 0s. 9d, had been applied to the general purposes of the parent society. The whole amount contributed since the formation of the society in 1812 was £44,660. 1s. 2d. During the past year 3000 Bibles and 2500 testaments had been distributed, making a total of 55,865 of the former, and 32,921 of the latter, since its commencement. The report gave general satisfaction, and resolutions in support of its adoption having been unanimously passed, thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

On Monday last, the Oundle branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society held its anniversary meeting, at the Talbot inn in that town. Lord Lilford took the chair, and was supported by various ministers. The resolutions were moved and seconded by the Hon. and Rev. Littleton Powis and Dr. A. C. Simpson, the Rev. J. Glover and Mr. Brackenbury, the Rev. H. Smith and Rev. A. Jenour, the Rev. C. Hume and W. Brackenbury, Esq., the deputation from the parent society. From the report it appeared that the distribution of copies of the sacred scriptures by this branch, and the amount of free contributions for foreign objects, had been greater during the last than in any preceding year of its existence. The attendance was good.

#### TRADE AND COMMERCE.

##### LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, April 9.

##### PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Ainsworth Cotton Twist Company—Denton and Co., Bolton, hat manufacturers—Cooper and Summers, Coventry, ironmongers—Griffiths and Co., Eglusam Mill, near Wrexham, millers—Riley and Entwistle, Pilkington, Lancashire, finishers—Moore and Wilkins, Guildford, barge-masters—Norris and Johnson, Upper Thames Street, stationers—Gander and Sayers, Guildford, carriers—Shipley and Oliver, Lincoln, schoolmasters—Dickins and Co., Upper Ground Street, coal-merchants; as far as regards G. Rands—T. and W. Lloyd, Leamington Priors, glass factors—Edwards and Gwyther, Bristol, boot-makers—N. and S. Staniford, Plymouth, dealers in glass—Brimson and French, Suffolk Street, Mile End Road, coach-builders—Parsons and Rolls, Chipping Norton, mercers—Noone and Bevins, Church Street, Blackfriars Road, engineers—Whyman and Emmerson, Derby, house-painters—Jepson and Son, Sheffield, accountants—Cluff and Co., Manchester, wholesale haberdashers—Castle and Co., Hepworth, Yorkshire, clothiers.

##### INSOLVENTS.

SPINK, FRANCIS, Bridlington, Yorkshire, miller, April 8.

TOLLITT, JOHN, Liverpool, bookseller, April 7.

##### BANKRUPTS.

ANKRETT, JOSEPH, Walsall, grocer, to surrender April 27, May 21: solicitor, Mr. Dove, Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn.

BRADSHAW, GEORGE, Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, draper, April 21, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Abbott and Arney, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square.

CROSS, MARY ANN and ELIZABETH, Kingston-upon-Hull, spirit merchants, April 24, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Arnold and Burn, Clement's Lane.

GARLICK, THOMAS, Greenwich, carpenter, April 16, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Suter and Bristow, Greenwich; official assignee, Mr. Green, Aldermanbury.

HOWELL, THOMAS, Brighton, builder, April 22, May 21: solicitor, Mr. Faithfull, King's Road, Bedford Row.

LUNDY, CHARLES, Kingston-upon-Hull, straw-hat manufacturer, April 23, May 21: solicitor, Mr. Field, Finchley Common.

MORRIS, JOSEPH, Birmingham, victualler, April 16, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Sheppard, Cloak Lane.

NEW, JOHN EDWARD, and NEW, FREDERICK, High Street, Aldgate, stationers, April 24, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Clark and Copper, Old Bailey; official assignee, Mr. Edwards, Old Jewry.

ROBERTS, FRANCES, and ROWE, CAROLINE, New Bridge Street, milliners, April 24, May 21: solicitor, Mr. Donne, New Broad Street; official assignee, Mr. Groom, Abchurch Lane.

SAMUEL, HENRY, Leadenhall Street, cigar-manufacturer, April 21, May 21: solicitor, Mr. Berry, Trafalgar Square; official assignee, Mr. Johnson, Basinghall Street.

SEDDON, EDMUND, Manchester, cotton-spinner, April 27, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Makinson and Sanders, Temple.

SMITH, SAMUEL, Manchester, engraver, April 24, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Fox and Meek, Basinghall Street.

WHITFIELD, JEREMIAH, Bishopsgate Street Without, carpet-warehouseman, April 23, May 21: solicitors, Messrs. Sole, Aldermanbury; official assignee, Mr. Turquand, Copthall Buildings.

##### DIVIDENDS.

April 50, Lee, Down Street, Piccadilly, saddler—April 30, Strange, Abingdon, wine-merchant—April 30, Cook and Wellard, Union Street, Shadwell, sugar refiners—May 3, Holliday, Wapping, mast-maker—May 6, Stuart, Pall Mall, milliner—May 6, Ashton, Berners Street, bill-broker—May 6, Hall, Piccadilly, upholsterer—May 6, Lacy, Hackney, butcher—May 4, Biddulph and Co., Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, bankers—May 8, Reynolds and Knight, Rugby, ironmongers—May 4, Bradbury, Dudley, grocer—May 7, Halliley, Leeds, cloth-merchant—May 4, Lee and Co., Liverpool, ironfounders—May 1, Elsworth, Leeds, worsted-spinner—May 7, Baker, Blagden, Somersetshire, scrivener—May 1, J. and H. Kisdale, Leeds, stuff-merchants—May 4, Milner and Bedford, Kingston-upon-Hull, confectioners—May 7, Keighley, Guiseley, Yorkshire, cloth-manufacturer—May 1, Halloran, Belfast, merchant—May 5, Brown, Chudleigh, Devonshire, draper.

##### CERTIFICATES.

To be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary, on or before April 30. Ratcliffe, Blackman Street, stationer—Hales, Liverpool, butcher—Silk and Brown, Long Acre, coach-builders—Jackson, Louth, merchant—Whitehouse, Northampton, coal-merchant—Partridge, Carlisle Place, Lambeth, victualler—Porter, Barnsley, calenderer—Richardson, Sunderland, merchant—Jones, Liverpool, soap-manufacturer.

##### SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

GRIEVE, GEORGE, Kilmorack, Inverness-shire, farmer, April 15, May 6.

MILL, JAMES and WILLIAM, Kingston, merchants, April 12, May 3.

Tuesday, April 13.

##### PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Perkins and Henry, North Place, Gray's-inn-road—Coates, Bill, and Hillard, London (so far as regards Howland Bill)—Spencer and Williams, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, milliners—Michell and Michell, Regent-street, silk-mercers—Robins and Robins, Bampton, Oxfordshire, tailors—Sturme and Pinney, Poole, coal-merchants—Wilkinson and Bell, Haslingden, Lancashire, joiners—Piggott and Jones, Wepre Mills, Northop, Flintshire, corn merchants—Hillier and Marston, surgeons—M'Allum, Wakinshaw, and Stamp, Jarrow, Durham, manufacturers of naphtha (so far as regards M'Allum)—Walsh and Charnley, Liverpool, wool dealers—Wills and Melhuish, Plymouth, grocers—Wilshin and Hyslop, jun., Gosport, Hampshire, brewers—Munk and Graves, Maidstone, grocers—Lambert and Jackson, Kingston-upon-Hull, warehousekeepers—Eddy and Jennings, jun., Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, chemists—Zuccani and Foletti, Skinner Street, Bishopsgate Street, looking-glass manufacturers—Long, Long, Griffiths, S. Long, jun., W. A. Long, jun., and Long, Charfield Mills, Gloucestershire, clothiers (as far as regards S. Long, W. A. Long, and W. A. Long, jun.).

##### INSOLVENTS.

SHAW, JAMES, Carlisle Street, Lambeth, builder, April 12.

WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN, Liverpool, and the tin-plate works, Glamorganshire, merchants.

##### BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

TRIPP, THOMAS, Brookfield, Antrim, and now of Elizabeth Street, Chester-Square, Middlesex, and BENN, JAMES, Belfast, and now of Elizabeth Street, distillers, May 25.

WILKINSON, JOHN, Brymbo, Devonshire, May 5.

##### BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

LAFFER, HENRY, Liverpool, merchant.

##### BANKRUPTS.

BROOKS, BENJAMIN, Badgworth, Somerset, teazle dealer, April 23, May 25: solicitor, Mr. W. S. Paterson, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street.

BUTLER, WILLIAM, and PARKES, RICHARD, Birmingham, wine-merchants, April 37, May 25: solicitor, Mr. S. Holmes, Great Knight Ryder Street, Doctors Commons.

COX, HENRY, Nottingham, grocer, April 20, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Johnson and Co., Temple.

EMERSON, NEWTON, Bishop Auckland, Durham, merchant, April 26, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Meredith and Reeve, Lincoln's Inn.

GEILL, GEORGE KENDRICK, Whittle-le-Woods, Lancashire, calico-printer, April 29, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Adlington and Co., Bedford-row.

HOSKINS, FRANCIS, Birmingham, wine-merchant, April 22, May 25: solicitor, Mr. J. H. Pollock, Sambrook Court, Basinghall Street; official assignee, Mr. Belcher.

JEANES, EDWIN, Exeter, bookseller, April 27, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Clowes and Wedlake, King's Bench Walk, Temple.

JONES, RICHARD, Liverpool, block-maker, April 27, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Norris and Co., Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn.

LATHAM, JOHN, Baln, Yorkshire, seed-merchant, April 30, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. R. M. and C. Baxter, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

MURRAY, WILLIAM, Manchester, innkeeper, April 27, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Adlington and Co., Bedford Row.

WARBURTON, JOHN, Liverpool, tailor, April 27, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, Mansion House Place.

##### DIVIDENDS.

May 4, Brine, Hart Street, Crutched Friars, wine-merchant—May 4, Evans, Evans, and Evans, Pump Row, Old Street Road, paper-manufacturers—May 4, Carruthers, Lower Thames Street, wholesale cheesemonger—May 4, Heyward, Lamb's Conduit Street, linen-draper—May 5, Healy, Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, victualler—June 14, May, Devonport, earthenware dealer—May 12, Poulter, Long Melford, Suffolk, dealer—May 10, Oliver, Quorndon, Leicestershire, hosier—May 6, Ulyatt, Crowland, Lincolnshire, cattle dealer—May 13, Morris, Gloucester, coachmaker—May 10, Fussell, Oxford, ironmonger—May 1, Dilworth, Arthington, and Birkett, Lancaster, bankers—May 5, Wilkinson, Brymbo, Denbighshire, iron-master—May 3, Knill, Gloucester, tailor—May 3, Foster, Gloucester, painter—May 13, Wile, Stafford, ironmonger—May 7, Storey, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, linen-draper.

##### CERTIFICATES—MAY 4.

Lee, Cockfield, Durham, draper—Scott, Sunderland, Durham, draper—Wilson, Radford, Nottinghamshire, builder—Coles, jun., Portsmouth, coach-maker—Cunliffe, Southampton, brewer—Denew, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, auctioneer—Duff, formerly of Galley-quay, Lower Thames Street, wharfinger—Wood, Leeds, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturer—Proctor, Fenchurch-street, merchant—Law, late of Manchester, banker—Wheelwright, Leeds, dyer—Hart, Gateshead, Durham, glass manufacturer—Caton, Preston, Lancashire, cotton-spinner—Young, Newcastle-upon Tyne, scrivener—Evans, Evans, and Evans, Pump-row, Old Street Road, paper-manufacturers.

##### SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

WEIR, JAMES, Arbroath, merchant, April 19, May 10.

DENOVAN, FRANCIS GARDEN, Leith, merchant, April 16, May 10.

CAMPBELL, JOHN, Overgate, Dundee, hosier, April 20, May 18.

POWELL, CHARLES, Glasgow, merchant, April 16, May 9.



## MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, April 8th.

Wheat, Red New	52 to 60	Barley, Malting	32 to 34	Beans, Old	42 to 44
Fine	60 to 68	Malt, Ordinary	54 to 56	Harrow	38 to 40
White	54 to 56	Fine	56 to 61	Oats, Feed	22 to 24
Fine	58 to 64	Peas, Hog	36 to 38	Fine	24 to 25
Superfine New	64 to 70	Maple	38 to 40	Poland	26 to 27
Old	62 to 72	White	35 to 36	Fine	27 to 29
Rye	30 to 40	Boilers	37 to 38	Potato	26 to 27
Barley	26 to 28	Beans, Ticks	36 to 37	Fine	27 to 31

AVERAGE PRICES OF CORN.		DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN.	
Per Qr. (Imp.) of England and Wales.		For the present Week.	
Wheat... 63s. 8d.	Rye... 35s. 3d.	Wheat... 23s. 8d.	Rye... 16s. 9d.
Barley... 32 9	Beans... 39 6	Barley... 13 10	Beans... 11 0
Oats... 22 8	Peas... 39 2	Oats... 13 9	Peas... 11 0

## FLOUR.

Town-made	per sack	55s. to 58s.
Seconds		50 to 55
Essex and Suffolk, on board ship		45 to 50
Norfolk and Stockton		40 to 45
BRAN	per quarter	0s. to 0s.
POLLARD, fine		0s. to 0s.
BREAD, 7½d. to 9½d. the 4lb. loaf.		

## PROVISIONS.

BUTTER—Best Fresh, 16s. 6d. per doz.—Carlton, 24 16s. to 25 6s. per cwt.	
BACON, Small New	per cwt. 53s. to 57s.
CHEESE, Cheshire	63 to 84
Derby, Plain	67 to 74
HAMS, York	76 to 86
EGGS, French	per 120 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.

HAY and STRAW. (Per load of 36 Trusses.)

## SMITHFIELD.

Hay, Good	80s. to 100s.	Clover	80s. to 120s.
Inferior	0 to 0	Straw, Wheat	40 to 45
New	0 to 0		

HOPS.	
Kent Pockets	100s. to 140s.
Choice Ditto	180 to 220
Sussex Pockets	100 to 120
Superfine Ditto	130 to 160

## POTATOES.

Scotch Reds	per ton 65s. to 70s.
Ware	0 to 0
Middling	0 to 0
Chata	0 to 0

## BUTCHERS' MEAT.

Although so few Beasts are here to-day, the trade is nevertheless anything but good; buyers being more than proportionately scarce, and Monday's figures are not supported, the highest figure that can be quoted not exceeding 4s. 10d. The supply of Sheep is large, and there is consequently a dullness in them also, with rather depressed prices, none but the best-woolled qualities being worth 8s. 6d.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.*						SMITHFIELD.*											
Beef.....	3s.	6d.	to	4s.	2d.	to	4s.	6d.	..	3s.	10d.	to	4s.	6d.	to	4s.	10d.
Mutton.....	4	0	..	4	6	..	4	10	...	4	2	..	4	8	..	5	6
Veal.....	4	0	..	5	0	..	5	8	...	4	8	..	5	6	..	5	8
Pork.....	4	0	..	5	0	..	5	8	...	4	0	..	4	6	..	5	4
Lamb.....	6	4	..	7	4	..	7	8	...	6	3	..	6	0	..	8	0

## HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	345	6,150	181	230
Monday	2,522	21,180	70	673

## OILS, COALS, CANDLES.

Rape Oil	per tun 44l. 0s.
Refined	45 10
Linseed Oil	27 0
Linseed Oil, Cake, per 1000	13 10
CANDLES, per doz, 7s. 0d. to 8s. 0d.	
Moulds (6d. p. doz. disc.)	9s. 6d.
COALS, Hetton	per ton 22s. 0d.
Tees	21s. 0d.

## GROCERIES.

TEA, Bohea, fine, p. lb. 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.	
Congou, fine	1 10½ to 2 0
Souchong, fine	1 6½ to 2 0
* In Bond—Duty 2s. 1d. per lb.	
COFFEE, fine, (in bd.) p. cwt. 105s. 120s.	
Good Ordinary	75s. 84s.
SUGAR, Muscovado, per cwt. 43s. 9d.	
West India Molasses, 97s. 0d. to 33s. 6d.	

Quarterly average of the weekly liabilities and assets of the Bank of England, from the 5th January to the 30th March, 1841:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Circulation	£16,537,000	Securities	£23,328,000
Deposits	7,212,000	Bullion	4,339,000
	£23,749,000		£26,667,000

We are unable to give the Markets this week as we propose to do hereafter. Our plans will be complete next week.

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- A Table of Premiums for Policies, payable at the age of Sixty, or of annuities to commence at that period, suitable to the case of Superannuated Ministers, and of other Professional Men.
- The lowest rates of Premiums consistent with security, and the payment of Policies, guaranteed by a Capital of ONE MILLION.
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The first division of profits took place on the 13th of May, 1840, when a reduction of 60 per cent. was declared on the annual premiums of all those policies entitled to participation.

The following table will show the operation of the reduction made by the Society:—

Age when Policy was issued.	Date of Policy.	Sum Assured.	Original Premium.	Reduction.	Annual Premium payable in 1840.
20	May, 1835	1,000	19 6 8	11 12 0	7 14 8
30	.. ..	1,000	24 8 4	14 13 0	9 15 4
40	.. ..	1,000	31 10 0	18 18 0	12 12 0
50	.. ..	1,000	42 15 0	25 13 0	17 2 0
60	.. ..	1,000	66 11 8	39 19 8	26 12 8

This system of reduction in the premiums affords immediate benefit to the Assured, or enables them to secure a considerable bonus by effecting a new policy.

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